

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,
OF MINNESOTA,

AT ITS ELEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, HELD AT MASONIC HALL,
IN THE CITY OF ST. PAUL, COMMENCING OCTOBER 27TH, A. L. 5863.

FIRST DAY.

At 12 o'clock M., the Most Worshipful Grand Master opened a Master's ☐ in ample form :

M. W. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R. W. L. E. THOMPSON, Senior Grand Warden.
R. W. C. W. THOMPSON, Junior Grand Warden.
R. W. E. C. WELLS, Grand Treasurer.
R. W. G. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.
W. W. T. RIGBY, Senior Grand Deacon.
W. C. WOODLEY, Junior Grand Deacon.
W. A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

Prayer by W. Bro. the Rev. Dr. McMasters.

The Grand Secretary was ordered to call the roll of ☐, when nineteen Subordinate ☐ were found duly represented.

The representatives from a constitutional number of ☐ being present, the Most Worshipful Grand ☐ of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, was opened in ample form.

Present—Grand Officers :

M. W. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
W. Rev. Dr. S. Y. McMASTERS, as Deputy Grand Master.
R. W. L. E. THOMPSON, Senior Grand Warden.
R. W. C. W. THOMPSON, as Junior Grand Warden.
R. W. E. C. WELLS, Grand Treasurer.
R. W. G. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.
R. W. D. B. KNICKERBACKER, Grand Chaplain.
W. A. HANNA, as Grand Marshal.
W. H. GLEASON, as Grand Standard Bearer.
W. S. S. EATON, as Grand Sword Bearer.
W. W. T. RIGBY, Senior Grand Deacon.
W. C. WOODLEY, as Junior Grand Deacon.
W. H. WEDELSTAEDT, as Grand Pursuivant.
W. A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

PAST ELECTIVE GRAND OFFICERS.

M. W. A. E. AMES, Past Grand Master.
R. W. Bros. WM. LEE and C. W. THOMPSON, P. G. Junior Wardens.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SUBORDINATE ☐

St. John's ☐, No. 1—L. E. Thompson, Worshipful Master.
 Cataract ☐, No. 2—J. B. Gillilan, Worshipful Master.

C. Woodley, Senior Warden.

St. Paul ☐, No. 3—H. Wedelstaedt, Senior Warden.

Hennepin ☐, No. 4—A. E. Ames, Worshipful Master.

E. B. Ames, proxy for Senior Warden.

E. A. Groff, proxy for Junior Warden.

Ancient Landmark ☐, No. 5—G. L. Otis, Grand Master.

F. James, Senior Warden.

Dakota ☐, No. 7—R. J. Marvin, Senior Warden.

Red Wing ☐, No. 8—C. W. Carpenter, proxy for ☐.

Mantorville ☐, No. 11—G. B. Cooley, Senior Warden.

Mankato ☐, No. 12—A. Hanna, Worshipful Master.

B. F. Smith, proxy for Senior Warden.

Wapahasa ☐, No. 14—S. S. Kepler, Worshipful Master.

Monticello ☐, No. 16—G. W. Prescott, proxy for ☐.

Winona ☐, No. 18—J. S. Campbell, Worshipful Master.

Minneapolis ☐, No. 19—J. O. Weld, Worshipful Master.

Rochester ☐, No. 21—C. H. Lindsley, Worshipful Master.

O. A. Hadley, proxy for Senior Warden.

Pleasant Grove ☐, No. 22—R. D. Hathaway, Junior Warden.

North Star ☐, No. 23—T. C. Alden, proxy for ☐.

Western Star ☐, No. 26—A. W. White, proxy for ☐.

Clear Water ☐, No. 28—W. T. Rigby, Worshipful Master.

J. M. Mitchell, Senior Warden.

Morning Star ☐, No. 29—H. Gleason, proxy.

Anoka ☐, No. 30—J. H. Martin, Worshipful Master.

King Hiram ☐, No. 31—E. C. Wells, Worshipful Master.

Sakata ☐, No. 33—C. J. C. Eldred, Senior Warden.

Oriental ☐, No. 34—George McKenzie, Worshipful Master.

W. P. Scofield, Senior Warden.

Mt. Moriah ☐, No. 35—E. P. Barnum, Worshipful Master.

S. S. Eaton Senior Warden.

C. A. Baker, Junior Warden.

Mystic Tie ☐, No. 37—Thomas McManus, Senior Warden.

Washington ☐, No. 38—G. B. Worth, Worshipful Master.

Prayer by the W. . Grand Chaplain.

On motion of M. . W. . Bro. A. E. Ames.

Resolved, That all Master Masons in good standing be invited to take seats in this Grand ☐ during its session.

Thereupon the Grand ☐ was called to refreshment, until two o'clock this afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2 O'CLOCK.

The Grand ☐ resumed labor, the M. . W. . Grand Master presiding, and the constitutional number for business being present.

On motion of M. . W. . Bro. Ames, the reading of the minutes of the last Annual Communication, was dispensed with.

The M. . W. . Grand Master announced the following standing committees :

On Grievances—Bros. L. E. Thompson, B. F. Smith, G. B. Worth, E. P. Barnum and E. A. Groff.

On Work of ☐ U. . D. .—Bros. W. T. Rigby, A. Hanna and C. A. Baker.

On Returns of —Bros. E. C. Wells, R. J. Marvin, and G. B. Cooley.

On Unfinished Business—Bros. S. S. Kepler, T. McManus, and J. M. Mitchell.

On Ancient Landmarks—Bros. S. S. Eaton, O. A. Hadley, and G. McKenzie.

On Visiting Brethren—Bros. C. Woodley and H. Wedelstaedt.

The M. W. Grand Master then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

Two years have passed since we met in Grand Communication to consult upon the interest of Craft Masonry in the jurisdiction of Minnesota. Two years of gloom and darkness have gone. The boom of cannon, the rattle of musketry, and the clash of arms, are receding farther and farther away from our borders, and we may reasonably hope that the time is not far distant when such sounds, so discordant to the Masonic ear, shall no longer be heard in all the length and breadth of our land. While our fields have been exempt from the deluge of blood that has marked so many others in various parts of our common country, yet have many of the brethren from this jurisdiction participated in those scenes of carnage and death that have brought sorrow and wailing in so many peaceful families.

Not a company has gone from this State but that some of our  were represented in it; not a regiment but that at least one-half of its officers were members of our Order; not a  in the State but that some of its officers have answered to their country's call. In some of our , one year since, all the officers had gone; in others a portion of the officers and members, and in one  but three members were left. So crippled were our , that in September, 1862, I sent a circular letter to the , requesting their views as to the policy of postponing the meeting of the Grand . Of the answers received, all of the , with but one exception, recommended a postponement of the meeting. I accordingly issued my circular of October last.

And here permit me to recommend, that inasmuch as no session of the Grand  was held last year, and consequently no expenses were incurred, that the dues of the Subordinate  for the year ending October, 1862, be remitted. The Grand  does not need the money, the dues for the present year will be ample for current expenses, and we have on hand a small surplus from previous years.

I am not in favor of the accumulation by the Grand  of a large sum of money, unless, indeed, there be some definite object in view, such as the education of the orphans of Masons, the erection of a Grand Lodge Hall, or for some public charity.

The Grand  of Minnesota was organized in 1853, with three Subordinate , since which time thirty-five charters have been granted. It is a very remarkable fact that all who participated in the organization of the Grand , are still living. Of those who have been elected Grand officers, although several have removed from our jurisdiction to Belgium, Maine, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and others are in the Armies of the Potomac, the Cumberland, the West, &c., yet none have died; and of all who have been Masters of our , but one has gone to "that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns."

Other jurisdictions, with a less number of , and some, too, younger than ours, have been called upon to mourn the loss of both Grand and Subordinate officers. For ten years the Angel of Death has passed us by;—a peculiar and mysterious manifestation of the protective care and goodness of Divine Providence.

Nor has the peace and harmony of the Grand  ever been disturbed. Questions which have rocked other Grand bodies to the centre, have been disposed of here without an apparent ripple disturbing the surface.

Let us then, my brethren, at this our eleventh Communication, offer our grateful acknowledgments to the Supreme Giver of all good, for this striking exhibition of His Divine care, protection and loving kindness to us as a Grand ☐, and renew, as we are assembled around the altar, our vows of fidelity to each other, and of faith and trust in God.

Immediately after the close of our last communication, I issued my proxy to well instructed and skillful brethren, to constitute Preston ☐ No. 36, Mystic Tie ☐ No. 37, and Washington ☐ No. 38, the new ☐ then chartered, and install the officers thereof, which acts were performed in accordance with ancient Masonic usage.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Work of ☐ U. S. D., I renewed the Dispensation to the brethren at Cleveland, in Le Sueur county, changing the name to that of Concord ☐ U. S. D. I have granted Dispensations for new ☐ as follows:

Fidelity, at Austin, Mower county, November, 1861; Carnelian, at Lake City, Wabashaw county, December, 1862; Harmony, at Enterprise, Winona county, May 14, 1863; Union, at Le Sueur, Le Sueur county, April, 1863; King Solomon, at Shakopee, Scott county, July, 1863.

Two other applications have been made to me for Dispensations, which I declined to grant; one because there was already a ☐ in the same town, and experience has demonstrated that harmony is not promoted by the establishment of two ☐ in small towns; and in the other case there was a chartered ☐ whose interests and usefulness I believed would be materially affected by a new ☐.

It may be remembered that in 1860 I reported the granting of a Dispensation to the brethren at Glencoe, Kandiyohi county. Soon after granting the Dispensation, and before any action had been had, the W. S. M. named in the instrument died, and the other officers moved away; consequently nothing was done. A new application was made in March last, by several of the original petitioners and others. I issued a Dispensation without fee.

About the middle of last month I received an application signed by W. S. Bro. C. W. Nash, J. L. Armington, A. T. Chamblin, Charles H. Mix, and eight others, who were *en route* for Pembina, Dakota Territory, for a Dispensation authorizing them to open and work a ☐. Pembina is the most northern point in the territory of the United States,—a great central point where concentrates a large amount of emigration, and of travel between the two oceans. The want of a ☐ at that place has been long felt and often expressed; and as the brethren named were active, well informed and discreet Masons,—the first two former Masters, and the latter Wardens of ☐ within this jurisdiction—and as they expected to remain in that hyperborean region for at least two years, I granted a Dispensation to establish a ☐ at Pembina.

The applicants for King Solomon's ☐ were mostly composed of the old members of the late Shakopee ☐. If their exhibit is satisfactory, and a Charter granted, I would respectfully recommend that the jewels of the late Shakopee ☐ now in possession of the Grand ☐, be turned over to the new ☐.

The ☐ U. S. D. have been visited in person or by proxy, are judiciously located, and the brethren appear to be governed by the true Masonic spirit. I understand that in each case charters will be applied for. Grand Masters are as fallible as other men, and I would therefore suggest to the Committee on Work of ☐ U. S. D. to make a careful examination of the work and records, and only recommend for charters such as present good work, fair records and strong presumptive evidence of their ability to sustain a ☐.

Since the last Grand Communication, I have visited, with perhaps two exceptions, all the ☐ in the jurisdiction. Such visitations, although involving much labor, fatigue and exposure, have been attended with to me many pleasing remembrances. The kindnesses received, the courtesies extended and the deference paid, have made an impression upon my mind that time can never efface.

The heartfelt welcome extended, as indicated by the warm grasp of the hand and the glistening eye, as the brethren gather around as soon as the word goes forth that the Grand Master has come, amply compensate for the fatigue and exposure of daily journeys of from six to twelve hours, although the

travel has been performed in such conveyances as a farmer's lumber wagon, a buck-board, open buggy, or peddler's cart.

The prompt and full assembly at the ☐ room, the respectful attention of the brethren; the strong desire for "more light," as evidenced by the many and various inquiries propounded, and the unwearied listening, often extended to the "we sma' hours," indicate that among our craftsmen Masonry is regarded as something more than a name, not a subject wherewith to while away an idle hour, merely, but a subject full of life, possessing an ideality that affords an object for investigation and thought, worthy of a vigorous intellect; that there is connected with, and a part of it, that which our barren rituals do not explain, and that a competent knowledge can only be obtained by long continued, patient and persevering study of the symbols and allegories that have descended to us from the dim vista of past ages, even from the antediluvian world.

I have found what is technically known as "the work," correct and uniform, and also a surprising uniformity of language.

Brethren, I wish to call your attention to a few matters, not irregularities exactly, but inattentions; matters that are often thought of little moment in themselves, but that are really important in the aggregate.

1st. Reading of the Constitution of the Grand ☐, the Ancient Charges, and the Old Regulations. These are not accessible to every Mason, but should be in the possession of every ☐, and frequently read, "that none may plead ignorance of the excellent precepts they contain."

2nd. The Proceedings of the Grand ☐ are printed for the instruction and information of the ☐. These are required to be read in every ☐ as soon after they are received as convenient. In how many ☐ is this done? Every Mason is required in his Masonic action to be governed by and pay obedience to the resolutions and edicts of the Grand ☐. The printed Proceedings are the medium by which the Craft are authoritatively informed of the resolutions and edicts of the Grand ☐. I have been obliged to reprimand two of our ☐ for violations of resolutions of the Grand ☐. The occasion for this unpleasant duty would not have occurred if the Proceedings had been read in open ☐. "I thought," or "I did not know," is no excuse for a non-conformity with the printed laws.

3rd. Carelessness of Secretaries. This is the most fruitful source of difficulties in ☐. Secretaries frequently "rough out," as it is termed, the proceedings of the ☐ on slips or separate sheets of paper, and at some convenient season copy them in the Record Book. I have found ☐ where the records of even eight Communications had not been entered upon the Record Book. No careful man would thus conduct his business, and a clerk thus negligent would not long remain in employment. Are not ☐ records as important as business records? The transactions of every Communication should be carefully recorded and read before the close of the ☐. Every petition, dimit, bill, report, communication, or other paper, relating to the business of the ☐, should be promptly filed and securely kept for future reference.

4th. Another evil, and the chief of all, is in allowing the door to stand wide open. There is too much anxiety to make Masons. It is far preferable and more advantageous to the interest of the Order that not one degree be conferred, than to make a hundred Masons, who cannot prove themselves as such afterwards.

The privileges of Masonry are designed only for the select few. If it were otherwise, no attempt at restrictions would be thrown around admissions. I tremble for the good name, the safety, the perpetuity of the Order, when I hear brethren boasting of the number of applications pending in their ☐. The brethren in olden time had this idea in view when they enacted the law that but five new brethren could be made at one time.

There is danger, brethren, great danger to the Institution in the wholesale work of making Masons. The old adage "go slow," although homely, is a most excellent one in Masonry.

One other matter, of local interest only, from its frequency has assumed a grave importance. I allude to the initiation of soldiers, because they are soldiers. Very many applications have been made to me for dispensations in

their cases, and some [] have acted upon the presumption that they could make Masons of soldiers who happened to be within their jurisdiction, no matter how short the time.

I have granted dispensations only in cases where it had been satisfactorily evidenced that the applicant had long had a desire to be a Mason, but, on account of residence, or other good reason, it was inconvenient.

By the laws of our State, soldiers do not gain a residence by reason of being encamped in a particular locality or by being stationed in a fort, nor do they lose their residence by reason of absence with their regiment or company. Some of our [] have been deceived in this matter, and have initiated those who have been rejected at home, and others have accepted those who could not be accepted at home. I hope our [] will bear in mind that the constitution governs as to residence in the case of soldiers, the same as in other cases.

Complaints having been made to me of gross irregularities in, and violations of, the constitutions by Faribault [], No. 9, I went to Faribault and made an investigation of the whole matter, and although the position of affairs was not such as I have been led to expect, yet I was compelled to suspend the workings of the []. Instead of a stubborn and rebellious [], I found the brethren penitent, and every facility was offered me, and all my inquiries were promptly and freely answered.

I first examined the records of the [], finding instances of petitions for degrees having been rejected at one meeting, and at the next again received. The reason assigned for such action by the W. M. and brethren was, that the D. G. M. had instructed them that a petition could be again presented and received at any stated Communication. The [] is exonerated from blame in this matter because of the instructions received; and again they had a file of the Proceedings of the Grand []. The resolution on page 201, Proceedings of October, 1858, fixes the time intervening between a rejection and a re-application, at not less than six months.

But I found a more grave error,—one which if allowed, would destroy the usefulness of our []. The record is as follows: "Committee upon the petition of M—, reported favorable. Ballots were spread and —, declared rejected. Again spread, and he was declared elected." The candidate was initiated the same evening.

On inquiry I learned that the rejection of the candidate caused some feeling in the []; remarks were made; a re-consideration of the ballot was moved, and after some brethren had left the room, the motion was adopted, and the candidate elected, after two or more brethren had given their reasons why they would change their ballots.

The reasons, or rather the excuse offered for such action was two-fold. 1st, That they could see no difference between a reconsideration of a ballot and the re-presentation of a petition under previous instructions: and, 2nd, the candidate was about to leave the State, and there would not be time to put it over for re-presentation at a subsequent Communication.

Another feature in the case: A brother (a Past Warden) of the [] wrote me, asking my opinion in a supposed case (as above). I replied that such action was in violation of the usages and customs, and if such a case had occurred, the candidate must proceed no further. The letter was shown to a number of the brethren, and yet they proceeded to confer the last degree, and gave as an excuse that the letter was not addressed to the W. M., and they did not consider it official, as they were informed that it was a private letter.

The Secretary had neglected to notify me of the election and installation of the officers of the [], and I knew not who they were, and hence answered the letter as requested. I gave the whole matter a full and careful examination, and discovered several mitigating circumstances, not of record, which will be communicated to the proper committee.

The officers and members expressed deep regret, and in manner and language exhibited deep contrition for their action. Deeming it absolutely necessary that an example should be made, I arrested the charter of the [], and recommended the brethren to apply to the Grand [] for its restoration.

In the eight years that I have held office, no official act has caused me

more painful emotions than the one just communicated. One of the oldest [] in the State; one that never refused to answer to a call for charity, but was rather extended its acts of charity beyond the bounds of due discretion; a [] that has been careful of its acts, and until within a year or two past, in all cases of doubt has applied for instruction; a [] that until a recent period has had the reputation of being cautious in the reception of material, —the necessity for suspension caused both grief and pain.

I am convinced that theirs was no willful design to violate the customs and usages of Masonry, but that the error was one of ignorance, and perhaps superinduced by an over-sensitiveness as to outside interference. A lesson has been taught that the [] can never forget, and I apprehend that such a case would not again occur. I therefore respectfully recommend that the Charter of Faribault [], No. 9, be restored.

Another case, and one that presents some strange aspects, has occurred, and as a precedent, requires to be placed before this Grand Body, as proving not only the necessity of an intimate acquaintance with the constitutions of Masonry by the grand officers, but also a thorough knowledge of their respective powers and duties.

Some time in 1862, I incidentally learned that a visitor, hailing from a [] at Northfield, had been admitted in a neighboring []. Knowing that I had not granted a dispensation, and that no other had the power or authority so to do, I supposed that my informant was mistaken as to the party hailing from a [] at Northfield, and for further assurance I addressed letters to two or three brethren, and receiving no reply, the matter passed out of my mind.

Early in 1863, a brother, a resident of Northfield, informed me that there was a [] at that place, and that it was acting under a dispensation from the D.: G.: M.: I at once informed him that the D.: G.: M.: had no authority to grant dispensations, and that they were acting without authority. Such information he communicated to the acting Master, and in due course I received a statement, which is herewith presented, setting forth that a petition for a dispensation had been put in the hands of a person (not a Mason) for presentation to me, and that on his return he reported that he heard that I was not in St. Paul, whereupon the petition was sent to the D.: G.: M.:, who not only granted a dispensation, but actually installed the officers, and that they had been at work making Masons; but as they were informed the whole matter was irregular, they asked for a continuation of the dispensation. This statement is signed by but five Masons.

I at once wrote, informing the parties that I could not recognize the dispensation, or any acts done under it. But as the parties made were innocent, that upon application, I would heal them; and if a proper application was made, I would grant a dispensation. Up to this time, I believed the parties to be acting in good faith. Shortly after, I received a letter declining to comply with my decision, and also stating that they had consulted the D.: G.: M.:, who sustained their action. The correspondence closed, as I could not discuss the powers of the D.: G.: M.: with any parties outside of the Grand [], particularly when powers are claimed which interfered with the prerogatives of the Grand Master, and were plainly at variance with the Constitution of the Grand []. I regretted the decision of the brethren at Northfield, as I was somewhat anxious that a [] should be established at that place.

The last communication to me, while declining to comply with my decision, &c., invited me to reconsider it, or there would be no [] at Northfield. Respect for the position I occupied forbade my reply, except by circular to the [], forbidding intercourse; but placing confidence in the brethren that no more work would be attempted, as they knew the decision of the Grand Master, desirous of screening the D.: G.: M.: as far as possible, and unwilling to herald to the world, or even to Masons, such a state of facts, I desisted. It was an error in judgment: my confidence was misplaced. I have been informed within a few days that the so-called [] has been continually at work, making Masons in defiance of the decision of the Grand Master, and are coming forward at this session to ask the Grand [] to sustain them, and grant them a charter, and that, too, notwithstanding a communication from the acting Master, herewith submitted, stating that from the reception of my decision

until the date thereof (over five months) have the most strenuous exertions been used, and not seven Masons could be found to sign an application. Have they been at work with even less than the number required?

Our Constitution clearly and in unmistakable language, points out the duty and powers of D. G. M., and to that instrument all Masons, including the Grand and Deputy Grand Master, must yield obedience.

I beg pardon, brethren, for being thus prolix upon the question; it is an important one, and meeting it now may save trouble in the future.

During the summer I received an appeal against the action of Blue Earth Valley Lodge No. 27, alleging injustice in the appellant's suspension from the privileges of Masonry. This matter derives its importance from the questions involved; the duties of attorneys, who are Masons, when engaged in the trial of causes where either or both parties are Masons. Questions of advisement have frequently been asked of me under such circumstances, and I have known many instances of hard feelings being engendered in such cases. Even otherwise well-informed Masons entertain wrong views of this question. I desire that this Grand ☐ should authoritatively set the brethren of this jurisdiction right on this subject.

The attorney or advocate who fairly and honestly presents his case, no matter whether he be engaged for or against a brother Mason, to help the tribunal on to the right conclusion, with a feeling that God's justice reigns there, is acting a Masonic part—leading that day a Masonic life; or else right and justice are no part of Masonry. Whether, during all that day, he has once appealed, in form or in terms, to his conscience, or not, if there has been the inward purpose—the conscious intent and desire that sacred justice should triumph, he has that day led a good and Masonic life, and made a most successful contribution to that Masonry of life and of society—the cause of equity between man and man, and of truth and right action in the world.

One of the great and imperative duties of Masonry is obedience to law. But obedience to law does not mean submission to tyranny, nor that by a profligate sacrifice of every noble feeling we should offer to despotism the homage of adulation. But that law which is the fair expression of the will and judgment of the people, is the enactment of the whole and of every individual. It is obligatory upon all, because it is the work of all, the will of all, the solemn judgment of all, from which there is no appeal. No man can disobey it without flying, as it were, from his own bosom, and repudiating his own nature; and in this very act he will inflict on himself the severest of retributions, even though he escape what is regarded as punishment.

To obey the laws, divine, civil and Masonic, is a solemn injunction given to every Mason; and to be careful that prejudice or passion, fancy or affection, error and illusion be not mistaken for conscience, is a Mason's bounden duty. Nothing is more usual than to pretend conscience in all the actions of man which are public and cannot be concealed. The disobedient refuse to submit to the laws, and they also in many cases pretend conscience, and so disobedience and rebellion are become conscience, in which there is neither knowledge nor revelation, nor truth nor charity, nor reason nor religion. Conscience is tied to laws whether divine, civil or Masonic.

Right or sure conscience is right reason reduced to practice, and conducting moral actions; while perverse conscience is seated in the fancy or affections. It is not enough that the conscience be taught by nature, but it must be taught by God, conducted by reason, made operative by discourse, assisted by choice, instructed by laws and sober principles; and then it is right and may be sure. All the general measures of justice are the laws of God, and therefore they constitute the general rules of government for the conscience; but necessity also hath a large voice in the arrangement of human affairs and the disposal of human relations, and the disposition of human laws; and these general measures, like a great river into little streams, are deduced into little rivulets and particularities, by the laws and customs, by the sentences and agreements of men, and by the absolute despotism of necessity, that will not allow perfect and abstract justice and equity to be the sole rule of government in an imperfect world; and that must needs be law which is for "the greatest good of the greatest number."

Such is the lesson of Freemasonry. A Freemason, therefore, should be a

man of honor and of conscience, preferring his duty to everything besides, even to his life; independent in his opinions, and of good morals, submissive to the laws, devoted to humanity, to his country, to his family; kind and indulgent to his brethren, a friend of all virtuous men, and ready to assist his fellows by all the means in his power.

I have been frequently interrogated as to the construction to be placed upon the following part of Sec. 47, Tit. 6, of our Constitution: "And no ☐ shall proceed to trial unless a majority of the members of such ☐ be present."

A strict, technical construction of the language would, at this time, prevent a trial in nearly every ☐ in this jurisdiction, no matter what the offence charged. Surely the object of the Grand ☐ was not to prevent justice being meted out to offending Masons.

My construction has been, and so I have instructed the ☐,—"who are within the jurisdiction of the ☐ at the time" to be present. I submit the decision to the Grand ☐ for its decision.

Since our last Grand Communication two of the representatives of this Grand ☐ near other Grand ☐ have gone to the unknown world. R.: W.: Samuel G. Risk, our representative near the Grand ☐ of Louisiana, died at Memphis, Tennessee, where he had gone in the delusive hope of regaining his health, December 24, 1861, aged forty-three years. His remains were taken to New Orleans, and deposited in the tomb with Masonic honors, under the direction of the Grand ☐. At the time of his death Bro. Risk was the G.: S.: of Louisiana, and G.: Recorder of both the Grand Encampment and the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America. Bro. Risk had achieved for himself a world-wide reputation as a wise and discreet Mason.

History tells us that at the first battle of Bull Run very many of the Union soldiers were taken prisoners, and after many removals were finally confined in New Orleans. But history does not tell us of another fact, and one, too, of which we as Masons may be justly proud, that M.: W.: Bro. J. Q. A. Fellows, the G.: M.: of Louisiana, visited the prisoners in their cells, administered to their wants, furnished food, medicines and attendance to the sick, undeterred by the mob who threatened his life. And when the prisoners were exchanged and about to return home, each brother was by him presented with a suit of clothes. I have appointed M.: W.: J. Q. A. Fellows the representative of the Grand ☐ of Minnesota near the Grand ☐ of Louisiana, made vacant by the death of R.: W.: S. G. Risk.

My earliest recollections of Masonry are associated with Gen. LaFayette and the late M.: W.: Jephth B. Munn, who was our representative near the Grand ☐ of New Jersey. Bro. Munn died at Chatham, New Jersey, June 22, 1863, aged eighty-six years.

While the army of the Revolution were in winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, the charter and jewels of St. John's ☐, located in Newark, New Jersey, were loaned to their brethren in the army. During that winter, 1779-80, Gen. LaFayette received the third degree, and it is said at the hands of Washington.

I think it was in 1824 that I first saw Bro. Munn. The acclamations of the people are still fresh in my memory as Bro. Munn, then G.: M.: of New Jersey, presented LaFayette to the assembly on the Green at Morristown. Each of them was clothed in the insignia of Masonry. Bro. Munn was initiated in 1806, and at the time of his death was supposed to be the oldest Mason in New Jersey. He was buried with Masonic honors at Madison, in that State. Thus is broken another link which connects us with the past. Alas! how few old-time Masons are left.

I have recently learned of the death of another of my early Masonic friends, M.: W.: Y. P. Page, G.: M.: of the District of Columbia, died September 25, 1863. He had been long sick, and fell a victim to his Masonic principles. On the evening of October 3, 1862, a regiment of soldiers arrived in Washington from the North. The night was stormy and cold, quarters had not been provided for them, and they camped on the sidewalk in front of Bro. Page's residence. They were hungry and cold. Impelled by that Masonic sympathy for distress which was ever the distinguishing characteristic of Bro. Yelverton P. Page, he opened his doors to them and spent the entire night min-

istering to their wants. The result was that he took a very severe cold, and went to his bed two days after, and on the 29th of September his brethren returned him to his mother earth.

I will be excused in mentioning something of his history, obtained years since, partially from himself and partially from others. His father, who had been W. M. of Washington Naval [] No. 4, died, leaving a family of young children comparatively unprovided for. The members of the [], mostly composed of mechanics employed in the Navy Yard, adopted Bro. Page, and as soon as of proper age sent him to school; after a time obtained for him employment in the Senate Chamber,—first at a dollar per day. His sprightliness and activity were noticed, and he was promoted, step by step, and he was for many years a clerk in the United States Senate.

The brethren of his [] almost venerated him. As soon as old enough he was initiated in the [] whose protege he was, and was soon after selected for W. M. Distinguished for his noble character and his diligent attention to every duty, his death has created a void that cannot soon be filled. Very many of the brethren of this jurisdiction will long remember the kindnesses extended to them in Washington. To the Grand [] of the District of Columbia and his brethren we offer our sincere condolence. Alas! we can do no more.

I have thus, my brethren, reported to you such of my official acts as possess Masonic importance, and called your attention to such matters as I deem necessary for the interest of the Order in this jurisdiction. My correspondence has been voluminous and extensive, but I have the satisfaction of knowing that all inquiries have been promptly answered.

If, in the discharge of the duties of this responsible position, I have wounded the feelings of any, I can only say that I deeply regret it, and beg to assure all that it was unintentional.

And here permit me again, as I have done in your individual [], to return my sincere, heartfelt thanks for the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me. And should I never again have the pleasure of meeting you around your altars, may I enjoy the pleasing thought while life lasts, that my visitations to the [] and intercourse with the brethren is ever present with them, and that I may have a place in their remembrance when gone to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

Bro. Geo. L. Otis moved,

1st. That so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the remission of dues of Subordinate [], be referred to a special committee of three.

2d. That so much thereof as relates to dispensations, be referred to the Committee on Work of [] U. S. D.

3d. That so much thereof as relates to the suspension of Fari-bault [], No. 9, be referred to the Committee on Grievances.

4th. That so much thereof as relates to the Northfield matter, be referred to a special committee of three.

5th. That so much thereof as relates to the appeal from Blue Earth Valley [], No. 27, be referred to the Committee on Grievances.

6th. That so much thereof as relates to the duties of attorneys, be referred to a special committee of three.

7th. That so much thereof as relates to the construction put upon Sec. 47, Title 6, Grand [] Constitution, be referred to a special committee of three.

8th. That so much thereof as relates to the death of M. W.

Y. P. Page, late Grand Master of the District of Columbia, be referred to a select committee of three.

9th. That the residue of said address be referred to a special committee of three.

Which motion prevailed, and the Grand Master appointed

As said first committee, Bros. J. S. Campbell, F. James, and E. B. Ames.

As said fourth committee, Bros. C. H. Lindsley, G. B. Cooley, and H. Gleason.

As said sixth committee, Bros. G. L. Otis, E. C. Wells, and W. P. Scofield.

As said seventh committee, Bros. G. B. Worth, E. B. Ames, and C. J. C. Eldred.

As said eighth committee, Bros. A. E. Ames, R. D. Hathaway and T. C. Alden.

As the ninth of said committees, Bro. B. F. Smith.

The Grand ☐ was called to refreshment until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, OCTOBER 28.

The Grand ☐ resumed labor, the M. W. Grand Master presiding.

Present, the same officers and representatives as yesterday.

Bro. H. Wedelstaedt presented the petition of Charles Symonds for restoration to the Order, which was referred to the Committee on Grievances.

The following reports were made, and, with the resolutions recommended, were severally adopted :

On the Remission of Grand ☐ dues for 1862.

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to remission of dues, have had the same under consideration, and without recapitulating the reasons so forcibly set forth in the address, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Grand ☐ dues for the year ending October 1, 1862, be and the same are hereby remitted.

JAMES S. CAMPBELL,	} Committee.
E. B. AMES,	
FREEMAN JAMES.	

On the death of G. M. Y. P. Page.

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the M. W. Grand Master's address as relates to the death of M. W. Y. P. Page, late Grand Master of the District of Columbia, report the following :

Forasmuch as it hath pleased the Grand Warden of Heaven to call from earthly labor to the Grand ☐ above, our worthy and esteemed brother Y. P. Page, Grand Master of the Grand ☐ of the District of Columbia, exalted by a true and virtuous life in Masonry, producing deep emotions in every true heart both in his own and other Grand jurisdictions, therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand [] of Minnesota sympathizes deeply with our sister Grand [] of the District of Columbia, in the loss she has sustained in the death of one of the most efficient of her officers.

Resolved, That we will keep in perpetual remembrance the many virtues of our departed brother, and write in our hearts the evidences of his good character.

A. E. AMES,
R. D. HATHAWAY, } Committee.
T. C. ALDEN.

On Work of [] U. D.

Your Committee on the Work of [] Under Dispensation, have examined the Work of

King Solomon [], Shakopee; Herman [], Zumbrota, Goodhue county; Harmony [], Utica, Winona county; Fidelity [], Austin, Mower county; and Carnelian [], Lake City, Wabashaw county.

And with the exception of some slight irregularities in the minutes and returns, we find the work of each such as we are authorized to receive. Believing that those irregularities will be corrected as soon as the brethren are apprised of them, and that the interests of the Craft will be promoted thereby, we would respectfully recommend that charters be granted to each upon their compliance with the Constitution of the M. W. Grand [] in such cases provided.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. T. RIGBY,
CHAS. A. BAKER, } Committee.
A. HANNA.

On presentation of Jewels of late Shakopee [], No. 6, to King Solomon [].

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the M. W. Grand Master's address as relates to the presentation of Jewels to King Solomon [], of Shakopee, have had the subject under advisement, and would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The M. W. Grand [] did, at its Communication in the year 1859, revoke the charter of Shakopee [], No. 6, and take possession of the Jewels and other property of the []:

And Whereas, A Dispensation has been granted to the brethren of Shakopee to work another [] under the name of King Solomon [], therefore,

Resolved, That the Jewels and other property of the late Shakopee [], No. 6, be presented to King Solomon [] upon its payment of the Constitutional fee for and receipt of its charter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. T. RIGBY,
A. HANNA, } Committee.
CHAS. A. BAKER.

On Construction of Section 47, Title 6, G. Constitution.

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the construction of Section 47, Title 6, of the Constitution of the Grand [], have had the same under advisement, and would beg leave to recommend for adoption the following resolution, to wit:

Resolved, That the construction of the Grand Master, of Section 47, Title 6, of the Constitution, which requires a majority of the members "who are within the jurisdiction of the [] at the time," to be present at the time of trial, be and the same is hereby approved by the Grand [].

G. B. WORTH,
E. B. AMES, } Committee.
C. J. C. ELDRED.

On so-called Northfield [] U. D.

The following report was submitted by the committee:

The committee to whom was referred that portion of the address of the M. W. Grand Master relating to the Northfield matter, respectfully beg leave to report :

That they have examined the papers and correspondence submitted to them, and have listened to statements and explanations made on the part of the so-called ☐ at Northfield, from all of which they have derived the following facts :

1st, That early in the month of December, 1861, a petition for a Dispensation, properly drawn up, signed by the requisite number of Masons, and accompanied by the usual fee, was forwarded by private hand to Saint Paul, addressed to the M. W. Grand Master.

2d, That the person who conveyed the petition to Saint Paul, informed the signers thereof, on his return to Northfield, that the M. W. Grand Master was absent from the State.

3d, That the petitioners thereupon presented their petition to the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, at Faribault, who immediately issued an instrument called a Dispensation, to the said petitioners, and on the 27th of December, 1861, appeared in person and instituted a ☐ at Northfield, under the name of Northfield ☐ U. D.

4th, That the brothers thus formed into a ☐ U. D. commenced work, and continued to exercise all the rights and privileges of ☐ U. D. for more than one year, in good faith, and without the knowledge of any irregularity in the proceedings by which they had been constituted into a ☐.

5th, That a statement in writing, setting forth the above facts, signed by a portion of the brothers composing said so-called ☐, having been presented to the M. W. Grand Master early in the year 1863, he by letter dated March 21, 1863, addressed to one of their number, informed the said brothers that he could not recognize them as a ☐, for the reason that the D. Grand Master had no power to grant Dispensations ; but inasmuch as he was satisfied that the brothers had acted in good faith, he offered to "heal" all who had been made, passed, or raised in the so-called ☐, and upon a proper application to grant a Dispensation for a ☐.

6th, That the brothers composing the so-called ☐ declined to comply with the requirements of the M. W. Grand Master, alleging the absence of all but one of the persons raised by them, and the removal of some of the signers of the original petition ; and further, that the D. Grand Master had promised to protect them, and had directed them to go on with their work—claiming for himself the *right* to issue Dispensations during the temporary absence of the Grand Master ; and finally, that notwithstanding the decision of the M. W. Grand Master, as above, the brothers composing the so-called ☐ have continued to work as a ☐ up to the present time.

The committee have deemed it proper to give, as above, all the facts which appear to them to have a bearing upon the case, in order that the whole subject may be fully understood by the M. W. the Grand ☐, and an intelligent decision upon the questions presented, arrived at. And inasmuch as the claim by the R. W. D. G. M. of power to issue dispensations during the temporary absence of the M. W. G. M. from the jurisdiction, presents a question of very grave importance, the committee feel justified in stating at some length the reasons why such a claim should not be allowed. Among these the committee submit the following Masonic propositions, which they believe to be conclusive :

1st, By Sec. 2, Title 1, Grand ☐ Constitution, a Grand ☐ is defined to be "a body of Masons in whom is inalienably vested the government and superintendency of the Fraternity within its territorial jurisdiction."

2d, By Sec. 10, Title 3, "All the executive powers of a Grand ☐, when not in session, are reposed in its Grand Master."

3d, Among the powers of a Grand Master are, the granting of dispensations to set aside for the time being certain laws, customs, or usages, some of which are subject to the action of the Grand ☐, either to confirm or reverse—to permit or deny.

The granting of dispensations for new ☐ is claimed as a prerogative of the G. M., over which the Grand ☐ has no control. It is inherent in the G. M.

4th, The office of Deputy Grand Master is a modern one, and has no inherent powers or privileges connected therewith. A Deputy Grand Master can exercise such powers only as are especially conferred upon him by the particular Constitution under which he is elected. Nor can the Grand [] confer upon the Deputy Grand Master any of the powers or prerogatives of the Grand Master while the latter is acting. The truth of this proposition is believed to be self-evident, and needs no other argument to demonstrate it than this—that if any such powers should be conferred upon the Deputy, he would, to the extent thereof, become a Master or head, thus creating *two* governing powers within the same jurisdiction, whose opposing decisions upon the same subject could not fail to introduce “confusion worse confounded” into a Fraternity wherein peace and harmony should ever be the prevailing characteristic.

Section 64, Title 9, of our Constitution, specially defines *all* the powers of the Deputy Grand Master. All, because none others are conferred by any of our rules and regulations, and none of any kind by ancient usage. Paragraph third of said section contains all of these which relate to the duties of that officer during the temporary absence of the Grand Master from the jurisdiction, and sets forth that in such case “he may, with the consent of the Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, call a meeting of the Grand [], and exercise such other powers and duties appertaining to the office of Grand Master as the interests of the Craft may in *their* judgment demand.”

From these propositions it appears—

1st, That the Grand Master only (when the Grand [] is not in session) has power to grant dispensations, and that a [] U. D. is, in a general sense, the creature of the Grand Master, working by virtue of his authority, and responsible to him for its action.

2d, That the Deputy Grand Master had no authority to grant a dispensation to open a [], at Northfield or elsewhere, and in doing so he usurped a power to which he had no right, either in law or custom; and that, consequently, all the work done under such dispensation, as Masonic, is null and void.

It appears, from the facts above recited, that the so-called [] at Northfield continued to work as a [] after the decision of the Grand Master that they were irregular and could not be recognized as a [], had been communicated to the members thereof. This was a very grave error, to say the least—it perhaps ought to be characterized as a crime—and is deserving of the strongest censure, if not of severe punishment. But inasmuch as the brethren of said [] plead in palliation, the continued assurances of the Deputy Grand Master that he had full right and authority for his action in the premises, and his promises to protect them and sustain their action, upon all which they placed reliance as coming from what they deemed to be almost the highest Masonic authority in the jurisdiction, and inasmuch as they disclaim all intention to set at defiance the Grand Master or the Constitution, and as they now confess their error and profess an entire willingness to submit to the decisions of the Grand [] and its Grand Master, and to endure such penalty, if any, as may be inflicted—the committee recommend that the matter be passed over without other action than the expression on the part of the Grand [], of its utter condemnation of the action of the aforesaid brethren at Northfield.

And inasmuch as the said brethren have made Masons of a number of persons who are represented to be of good Masonic material, calculated to benefit the Fraternity, and who in thus joining it, as they supposed acted in good faith, and as their exclusion therefrom would cast odium and reproach upon our Order, the committee recommend that the Grand Master be requested to heal all such persons, on proper application; and they further recommend that if, in the judgment of the Grand Master, the good of the Fraternity would be subserved thereby, he be requested to grant a Dispensation to the brethren at Northfield, to establish a [].

As regards the action of the Deputy Grand Master in this matter, the committee respectfully submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the action of the Deputy Grand Master in granting a

Dispensation to open and work a ☐, is condemned by this Grand ☐, as it was in violation of the Constitution thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. LINDSLEY, Chairman.
H. GLEASON.

The question being upon the adoption of the report and resolution, a division was called for. The report was then adopted, and on motion of Bro. Campbell, the resolution was laid over until the afternoon session.

On Returns of ☐.

Your committee to whom was referred the Returns of ☐ would respectfully report that they have had the same under examination, and find them correct as now returned, with the amounts due the Grand ☐ from the respective Subordinate ☐, as follows:

St. John's, No. 1,.....	\$27 50
Cataract, No. 2,.....	54 00
St. Paul, No. 3,.....	30 00
Hennepin, No. 4,.....	107 00
Ancient Landmark, No. 5,.....	100 00
Dakota, No. 7,.....	32 00
Red Wing, No. 8,.....	41 00
Faribault, No. 9,.....	46 00
Mantorville, No. 11,.....	15 00
Mankato, No. 12,.....	110 00
Wapahasa, No. 14,.....	48 00
Monticello, No. 16,.....	10 00
Winona, No. 18,.....	84 00
Minneapolis, No. 19,.....	53 00
Rochester, No. 21,.....	81 50
Pleasant Grove, No. 22,.....	27 00
North Star, No. 23,.....	51 50
Wilton, No. 24,.....	50 00
Western Star, No. 26,.....	13 00
Clear Water, No. 28,.....	16 50
Morning Star, No. 29,.....	13 00
Anoka, No. 30,.....	32 00
King Hiram, No. 31,.....	25 00
Sakatah, No. 32,.....	26 00
Oriental, No. 34,.....	28 50
Mt. Moriah, No. 35,.....	21 50
Mystic Tie, No. 37,.....	30 00
Washington, No. 38,.....	19 00
Fidelity, U. D.,.....	85 00
Carnelian, U. D.,.....	27 00
Harmony, U. D.,.....	18 00
Hermon, U. D.,.....	13 00
King Solomon, U. D.,.....	17 00
Hope, U. D.,.....	59 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWARD C. WELLS, }
R. J. MARVIN, } Committee.
G. B. COOLEY. }

The report was adopted.

The report on duties of Attorneys was taken up, concurred in, and the accompanying resolution adopted.

On Duties of Attorneys.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the duties of Masons who are attorneys and counselors within this jurisdiction, in cases where they are called upon to con-

duct causes against a brother, have had the same under consideration, and report :

The duties of an attorney and counsellor within this jurisdiction, as defined by the laws of the State, are as follows, viz :

1. To support the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State.

2. To maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers.

3. To counsel or maintain such actions, proceedings or defences only as appear to him legal and just, except the defence of a person charged with a public offence.

4. To employ for the purpose of maintaining the causes confided to him, such means only as are consistent with truth, and never seek to mislead the judges by any artifice or false statement of fact or law.

5. To maintain inviolate the confidence, and at every peril to himself to preserve the secrets of his client.

6. To abstain from all offensive personality, and to advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which he is charged.

7. Not to encourage either the commencement or the continuance of an action or proceeding from any motive of passion or interest; and

8. Never to reject, for any consideration personal to himself, the cause of the defenceless or oppressed.

It is the opinion of your committee that an attorney and counselor, in the discharge of his professional duties as thus defined by law, has a higher duty to his client in the conduct of a cause or proceeding in court, than to any other person, and he is bound by every sentiment of honor and duty, as well as by the laws of his country, to maintain his client's cause, if it seems to him legal and just, without regard to the person or character of the party against whom he is called upon to act.

Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That any brother who is an attorney and counselor within this jurisdiction, acting within the line of his duty as defined by law, is at liberty to undertake any cause that may seem to him to be just and legal, without regard to the character or standing of the party against whom he acts.

GEO. L. OTIS,
WM. P. SCOTFIELD, } Committee.
EDW. C. WELLS.

On motion, the report was laid over until afternoon session.

On motion of Bro. Hanna,

Resolved, That the Grand ☐ proceed to the election of Grand Officers as the first business this afternoon.

The Grand ☐ was called to refreshment until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 O'CLOCK.

The Grand ☐ was called to labor by the M. . W. . Grand Master. Representatives all present.

The Grand ☐ proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, Bros. G. B. Worth and C. W. Carpenter being appointed tellers, and the following were declared duly elected, to wit :

M. . W. . A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R. . W. . L. E. THOMPSON, Deputy Grand Master.
R. . W. . C. H. LINDSLEY, Senior Grand Warden.
R. . W. . W. T. RIGBY, Junior Grand Warden.
R. . W. . E. CASE, Grand Treasurer.
R. . W. . G. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.

The resolution relative to the action of the Deputy Grand Master

in the matter of the so-called Northfield ☐ U. D., reported by the committee, now coming up for action, it was adopted.

The following supplemental report was made and adopted:

On Work of ☐ U. D.:

Your committee on Work of ☐ U. D. have, since making their former report, examined the records and returns of Hope ☐, of Glencoe, McLeod county, and find them substantially correct; and believing that the interests of Craft Masonry will be promoted thereby, would respectfully recommend that a charter be issued to the brethren of said ☐ upon their paying the constitutional fee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. T. RIGBY,
CHAS. A. BAKER, } Committee.
A. HANNA.

The Committee on Grievances made the following report, which was, with the resolutions annexed, adopted:

On Faribault ☐ No. 9.

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to Faribault ☐ No. 9, in this jurisdiction, have had the same under consideration and also have examined the petition of several brothers praying for a restoration of the charter of said ☐ by this body to a portion of its former members, and a remonstrance thereto by some of the members of said ☐. Having heard and duly considered the testimony therein, we respectfully beg leave to report:

That the Proceedings of said ☐, as more fully detailed in the M. W. Grand Master's address, are in direct contravention of this Grand ☐, and contumacious to the direction and authority of the M. W. Grand Master. They therefore offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Grand ☐ do hereby approve the action of the M. W. Grand Master in arresting the charter of Faribault ☐ No. 9, until the Communication of the Grand ☐.

And whereas, this Grand ☐ does not consider itself as having the authority to grant a restoration of the charter of said ☐ to a portion of the original members and not the whole,

Resolved, That the prayer of said petitioners be refused.

And, Whereas, it is apparent that there is a discordant element in said ☐, which is likely in future, as heretofore, to disturb the peace and harmony thereof,

Resolved, That the charter of said ☐ be retained by the Grand ☐ until our next annual Grand Communication, unless the M. W. Grand Master shall see proper to restore the same, which he is authorized to do whenever in his opinion harmony shall have been fully restored, and the good of the Craft demands such restoration.

Resolved, That in case the charter of said ☐ shall not be restored to said ☐, the R. W. Grand Secretary be directed, at least sixty days before the meeting of the Grand ☐, to prefer charges against said ☐, and serve a copy on the W. Master thereof, in accordance with section 19 of the Constitution of the Grand ☐.

L. E. THOMPSON,
R. F. SMITH,
G. B. WORTH, } Committee.
E. A. GROFF,
E. P. BARNUM.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed Bros. T. C. Alden, A. White and O. A. Hadley, a committee to prepare a pay roll of representatives at this session.

The Grievance Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

In matter of Suspension of J. B. Howard.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances, to whom was submitted the proceedings of Hennepin □, No. 4, in the suspension of Brother J. B. Howard from the privileges of Masonry, September 7, 1859, would most respectfully make the following report :

It appears from the Proceedings certified to this Grand □ and submitted to us, that upon the trial of said J. B. Howard, that there were 36 votes cast as follows: Guilty, 20; Not Guilty, 16. Your committee believe that it requires a two-thirds vote to indefinitely suspend a brother; therefore, we deem the action of said Hennepin □ unconstitutional in pronouncing sentence of guilt upon Bro. Howard. We therefore offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the sentence of Hennepin □ in the suspension of Bro. Howard be, and the same is hereby reversed.

L. E. THOMPSON,	} Committee.
B. F. SMITH,	
G. B. WORTH,	
E. A. GROFF,	
E. P. BARNUM.	

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances made the following report, which, with the resolution appended, was adopted.

In matter of Brother A. C. Dunn.

Your committee on Appeals and Grievances have had under consideration the matter of Andrew C. Dunn, a member of Blue Earth Valley □, No. 27, against whom charges were preferred for unmasonic conduct within the jurisdiction, and have examined such papers as are now in the possession of the Grand Secretary, and such testimony as has been presented to us, upon the appeal of Bro. Dunn to the Grand □.

Your committee beg leave to report that the Proceedings of said □ upon the trial was sent up to this Grand □, but have been lost or mislaid, and consequently have not been examined. Your committee are informed that the □ transmitted to the Grand Secretary the original testimony and charges, instead of a transcript, and by reason thereof is not now in possession of any record of the same.

In order that justice may be done to all concerned, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the case of Brother Andrew C. Dunn be remanded back to said □ for a new trial, to be had forthwith, and that said Bro. Dunn is hereby reinstated until by said trial shall be otherwise determined.

L. E. THOMPSON,	} Committee.
G. B. WORTH,	
E. A. GROFF,	
E. P. BARNUM.	

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances made a verbal report in relation to the petition of Charles Symonds for restoration to the Order, stating that the matter had not come before them in such form as to enable them to act in the premises. After some explanation by members of the Grand □,

Bro. Otis moved that the Grand Master be empowered to restore Charles Symonds to all the rights and privileges of Masonry upon the recommendation of at least two-thirds of the members of Ancient Landmark □, of which he was formerly a member.

The following report was made and adopted, and the several amounts found due the representatives, ordered paid.

[The receipts of the members are added in column headed "Received Payment."]

On Pay Roll.

Your committee to whom was assigned the duty of preparing a Pay Roll for the Representatives to this Grand ☐, have attended to that duty, and beg leave to submit the following report :

NAME OF LODGE.	No. Lodge.	No. of Days.	Per diem.	Mileage.	Total.	Dues Paid G. ☐ .	TO WHOM PAID.
Saint John's,.....	1	2	\$6 00	\$3 00	\$9 00	\$27 50	L. E. Thompson.
Cataract,.....	2	2	6 00	1 50	7 50	54 00	C. Woodley.
Saint Paul.....	3	2	6 00		6 00	30 00	H. Wedelstaedt.
Hennepin,.....	4	2	6 00	1 50	7 50	107 00	
Ancient Landmark,.....	5	2	6 00		6 00	100 50	Geo. L. Otis.
Dakota,.....	7	2	6 00	3 50	9 50	32 00	R. J. Marvin.
Red Wing,.....	8	2	6 00	4 50	10 50	41 00	Chas. Kempe.
Faribault,.....	9	2	6 00	9 00	15 00	46 00	Thos. Carpenter.
Mantorville,.....	11	2	6 00	8 00	14 00	15 00	G. B. Cooley.
Mankato,.....	12	2	6 00	12 00	18 00	110 00	A. Hanna.
Wapahasa,.....	14	2	6 00	7 75	13 75	48 00	S. S. Kepler.
Monticello,.....	16	2	6 00	10 50	10 00	10 00	J. L. Hilliard.
Winona,.....	18	2	6 00	7 00	13 00	84 00	Jas. S. Campbell.
Minneapolis,.....	19	2	6 00	1 50	7 50	53 00	
Rochester,.....	21	2	6 00	13 50	19 50	81 50	C. H. Lindsley.
Pleasant Grove,.....	22	2	6 00	14 50	20 50	27 00	R. D. Hathaway.
North Star,.....	23	2	6 00	12 00	18 00	51 50	T. C. Alden.
Western Star,.....	26	2	6 00	12 00	13 00	13 00	A. W. White.
Clear Water,.....	28	2	6 00	11 00	16 50	16 50	W. T. Rigby.
Morning Star,.....	29	2	6 00	8 00	13 00	13 00	H. Gleason.
Anoka,.....	30	2	6 00	5 00	11 00	32 00	John H. Martin.
King Hiram,.....	31	2	6 00	6 00	12 00	25 00	Edward C. Wells.
Sakatah,.....	32	2	6 00	10 50	16 50	26 00	C. J. C. Eldred.
Oriental,.....	34	2	6 00	6 50	12 50	28 50	Geo. McKenzie.
Mt. Moriah,.....	35	2	6 00	3 50	9 50	21 50	E. P. Barnum.
Mystic Tie,.....	37	2	6 00	8 00	14 00	30 00	Thos. McManus.
Washington,.....	38	2	6 00	7 50	13 50	19 00	G. B. Worth.

T. C. ALDEN, }
A. W. WHITE, } Committee.
O. A. HADLEY. }

On motion of Bro. Wells,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand ☐ be returned to the proprietors of Davidson's steamboat line, Burbank's stage line, and the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, for giving passage at half fare to the delegates attending this Grand ☐.

A case of charity being laid before the Grand ☐, on motion of Bro. Wedelstaedt,

Voted, That a committee of three composed of the Grand Master and the Masters of the two ☐ in this city, be appointed to examine into the matter, and upon being satisfied of its merits, that the Grand Master be authorized to draw for such sum as he may deem the case entitled to.

On motion of Bro. L. E. Thompson,

Voted, That the Grand Secretary be allowed two hundred dollars in full for his services and postage during the past two years.

Voted, That the Grand Tyler be allowed fifteen dollars for his services and expenses at this session.

The Grand Master then installed such of the Grand Officers elect as had not been previously installed.

The Grand Master appointed the following Grand officers, and installed such as had not been already installed :

W.: D. B. KNICKERBACKER, Grand Chaplain.

W.: J. S. CAMPBELL, Grand Marshal.

W.: A. HANNA, Senior Grand Deacon.

W.: F. JOSS, Junior Grand Deacon.

W.: A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

Proclamation was made by the Grand Marshal accordingly.

The M.: W.: Grand Master then proceeded to exemplify the work in the three Degrees as taught by him; and thereupon, on motion of Bro. C. H. Lindsley,

Resolved, That the work taught by Grand Master Pierson, and exemplified this evening, be adopted as the work of this jurisdiction.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was ordered to be printed with the minutes.

There being no further business, the Eleventh Annual Communication of the Grand ☐ was closed in ample form, peace and harmony prevailing.

A. T. C. PIERSON, *Grand Master*.

ATTEST :

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *Grand Secretary*.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M.: W.: Grand ☐ of Minnesota :

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence would respectfully report, that having been absent during the latter half of the year 1862, no attempt has been made to review the Proceedings of other Grand Bodies for that year. The following brief synopsis of the doings of the Craft, as exhibited in the Proceedings which have reached us for 1863, is offered for your perusal.

MAINE.

The Grand Master gives a flattering account of the prosperity of the Craft in that State. He says :

“The year that has passed since we last assembled in this hall, has been one of marked prosperity. The Order in this State is stronger than ever before, not only in numbers, but in moral power. Its influence is widely felt and universally acknowledged. The object of the institution is better understood and appreciated by the public.”

He calls attention to a trouble which he characterizes as a striking illustration of the necessity of a change in the Constitution, in relation to the jurisdiction of Subordinate [] , which will oblige candidates to make application to the nearest [] , as the present provision "really affords facilities to unworthy candidates to gain admission." "A worthy candidate would apply where he is best known," adds the Grand Master. A proposition to amend the Constitution in accordance with these suggestions, was entertained and referred to the appropriate committee.

Petitions for Regimental Traveling [] were denied for reasons given at some length, the conclusion being as follows :

"I finally came to this result : I have written to our brethren in the army that it is deemed best for all concerned to grant no Dispensations allowing them to do work, but that they have a right to assemble in safe places for mutual instruction, for rehearsing the lectures and exemplifying the work, and for the interchange of fraternal greetings ; and further, that they may perform the ceremonies of the Order at the funeral of a departed brother."

Alluding to the effort to hold a Masonic Congress in New York to confer upon the trouble under which our country is suffering, Bro. Drummond says :

"My views in relation to our duties in this crisis, I have heretofore plainly and explicitly stated. I have seen no reason to modify them. Our Institution *as such* cannot now take any part in this struggle, or hereafter, in its pacification. Individual members may do much. Indeed the ties of our Brotherhood seem to be almost the only ones that have not been broken between the contending parties. And these have been strained almost to breaking. The Grand [] of Virginia, in the first mad excitement of the conflict, disowned all Masons in her jurisdiction who should adhere to the Union, and pronounced them Masonic outlaws. But her edict was often disregarded. And within a short time, I am informed, she has rescinded it. Very many instances have occurred in which the appeal of our Brotherhood has been heeded to stay the hand raised in deadly conflict against a brother.

"When the angel of peace shall again hover over our land, it will be our work as individuals, to put out the fires which lie smouldering in the ashes of the conflict. Let us then pour on the oil of charity and brotherly love, which, while it causes the fires of union and harmony to burn brighter, extinguishes those of hatred and revenge. Until then, we should remember, that one of our earliest lessons was, that our obligations as Masons do not interfere with the duty we owe to God or our country. May He speed the happy day, when our duties to our country shall require the exercise of no other feelings than brotherly love towards every Mason on the continent ; when one flag shall again float from the Lakes to the Gulf, over a restored Union—an undivided nation."

The Grand [] approved the following decisions of the Grand Master :

That a [] under Dispensation has no jurisdiction to try charges against a Mason, though he be one named in the Dispensation,—the only powers of such a [] being those granted in the Dispensation ; that the minutes of the proceedings in each inferior Degree should only be read in that Degree ; that each [] may provide

whether candidates shall be balloted for upon each Degree, or at once for the three Degrees; that the persons named in the warrant of a ☐ U. S. D. only have the right to vote therein.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is of course from the pen of Bro. Cyril Pearl. He thus discourses upon the subject of "*Conservatorism*."

"So far as we are able to judge, there has been no subject which has ever produced so much contention and discord among the Fraternity as this of the Conservators, where their Associations have been introduced. We have the authority of one of the members of this Grand ☐, who has carefully examined the matter, for saying, that, while their ultimate object is to introduce a certain kind of work and establish a uniformity of work throughout the country, their proposed and *actual* means of establishing their object is, to induce some of the active Masons in every ☐ to become secretly members of their association, and then manage to be elected Masters and Wardens and thus obtain control of the Grand ☐. In other words it is a secret organized association having for their *immediate* object official position in their own ☐ and the Grand ☐. It is not only adopting a system of electioneering in its worst form in our ☐, but it also introduces the political caucus system.

"This Grand ☐ has heretofore expressed its opinion in regard to electioneering in most decided terms; and we fully believe that Maine will not prove a fruitful soil for Conservatorism, or any other *ism* that would so certainly entail evil upon our Order."

Bro. Wm. P. Preble elected Grand Master, and R. S. W. Bro. Ira Berry re-elected Grand Secretary.

VERMONT.

The Grand Master, M. S. W. Brother Englesby, alludes to the hasty and imperfect manner in which the Degrees are sometimes conferred, and says: "I have known those claiming to be Masons, and hailing from Vermont, who have been refused admittance to ☐ rooms in other jurisdictions. The excuse given was that they had received the Degrees in a hasty manner consequent upon granting a dispensation. These gentlemen have some rights in the matter; they pay the fees required by our Constitution, and in return are entitled to receive *all* the rights, lights, and benefits for which they pay; else, they might as well have remained without our walls." The brethren are earnestly cautioned against "foreign influence in any manner, or under any pretence," it having been suggested to him that the work in some of the ☐ was being changed in some particulars and without authority. "The record of this jurisdiction has always been of too high a character," says he, "to allow of any tampering with it from any source. I can only trust that no secular ☐ or member thereof will forget, that to the Grand ☐ of Vermont alone does it or he owe Masonic allegiance, and from its constitutionally appointed officers should it or he derive the instruction necessary to the carrying forward the works of the Order."

The committee to whom this matter was referred, report, "that to

the Grand Master especially belongs the prerogative to guard with jealous care our lectures and work, and see to it that they are preserved in their purity and transmitted with the strictest integrity."

To the proposal of Bro. Pearl of Maine, for a Masonic Congress, to take into consideration the ways and means by which "the balm of Freemasonry might be applied to our country's rankling wounds," the Grand Master sent an adverse answer, as it "might seem to imply an attempt to interfere in those matters of political and civil government with which our regulations *forbid us to deal*." The Grand ☐ sustained this decision, adopting a report, which says: "Let us as Masons confine our labors to the more legitimate objects of the practice of the social virtues, and avoid, if possible, even the appearance of intermeddling in national or political affairs. Let us ever be loyal to our country and obedient to its laws, ever remembering that all true freedom is, in the words of our Grand Master, 'freedom under the law.'"

The Grand Master was re-elected, as was also the Grand Secretary, Bro. Henry Clark. Bro. Clark closes his report on Foreign Correspondence in the following words:

"We are gratified to find so great a uniformity of sentiment prevailing as to our general duty as Masons in the unhappy condition of our common country, that though brothers and in arms against each other, still the light of Masonic charity is not extinguished, and that mercy sheds forth its cheering beams, bringing balm to the sufferer, comfort to the sorrowing, and that in this we have not been unfaithful to our God, our country, and our Order."

The Grand ☐ presented one hundred dollars to the widow of the late P. G. M., Brother Philip C. Tucker.

RHODE ISLAND.

Who wouldn't be a mite of a State, sound to the very core? Every few months, the brethren of "Little Rhody" put on their hats and run into Providence to hold a bit of a Grand ☐. Proceedings of four Communications for year ending May 25, 1863, came to us in twenty-eight pages. It is unanimously decided, however, that hereafter "there shall be three Communications of the Grand ☐ in each year, viz: an annual, a semi-annual, and a festival." Now there are two things we never desire to see done by the denizens of Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations, viz: the blotting out of "Festivals" from their Masonry, or "Hope" from their coat of arms.

The Grand Master's address shows that during the year, 151 were raised to the Master's Degree, 29 died, two were suspended, and 27 applicants were rejected.

"It is a matter of congratulation," says Brother Ballou, "to find

that a large majority of the  have re-elected their Masters. The beneficial effects of this course will, we doubt not, be seen in the ready and correct instruction and greater order and dispatch of business which it will produce. The closing year has been one of prosperity to our Order. Much has been done to promote the enduring principles of Freemasonry. Harmony has prevailed among us. Young America and Old Fogyism have shaken hands, and are both engaged in beautifying our Masonic Temple, dedicated to brotherly love. The moral principles of our Institutions are taking a deeper root in the affections of the Brotherhood."

M. W. Bro. Ariel Ballou, Grand Master, and R. W. Thomas A. Doyle, Grand Secretary, re-elected.

CONNECTICUT.

"Within the limits of our jurisdiction," says Grand Master Hyde, "in marked contrast with the bitterness, turmoil and strife that surround us, the affairs of our Order have been eminently peaceful and prosperous." Application having been made by brethren in the army for an Army , the Grand Master, "after much consideration and consultation with older brethren, came to the conclusion that the interests of the Fraternity would not be promoted by granting such dispensations, and therefore declined so to do," it being "evident that massed, as our Regiments are, in large bodies, and located, as their camps generally are, apart from buildings suitable for holding meetings, and considering their frequent changes of location, there can be but little opportunity for regular or systematic work." The Grand  approved this action of the Grand Master.

"The attempt, too often made by members of our , to make pecuniary profit, or secure some other personal advantage, out of their relations as Masons," is held up as a fault "which ought always to be discouraged and rebuked."

The address of the Grand Master closes as follows :

"There is no need to go beyond the limits of our own country, to find among the illustrious dead the names of brethren, whose virtues and achievements ought to suffice to incite us to make every exertion to render ourselves worthy of being their successors.

"If in this dark hour of our country's trials, we would seek by contemplating the moral heroism and glorious deeds of the fathers of our Republic, to strengthen our hatred of oppression, and nerve our hearts to dare to speak or do whatever may be required to preserve the liberties of our people,—then let us remember that Thomas Jefferson, who drafted, and four-fifths of his immortal associates who signed that Declaration of Independence which gave our nation birth, were Masons.

"Do our brethren who are leading our forces on the battle field, ask for models of courage and skill, let them remember that almost every General in our revolutionary army, who aided in securing imperishable honor for our name, and freedom for our people, was a Mason.

"Do we desire a precedent of iron firmness, singleness of purpose, and an unalterable devotion to our once glorious Union,—then I would tell you, Andrew Jackson was a Mason.

"Do we seek for one whose example may inspire our modern orators with that persuasive eloquence that will suffice to allay the angry passions of our people, and restore peace and harmony to our distracted country; then we may point to Henry Clay, whose thrilling voice was so often heard, calming popular excitements and pleading for concord and unity, as to entitle him to be called the Great Pacificator; for he, too, was a Mason.

"Do we look for one whose patriotism, wisdom, courage, prudence, and unselfishness were all so pre-eminent as to denote him *the* model man, worthy of imitation by his successors in all coming time; then we may remember that George Washington, the Father of his Country, was a Mason.

"Would that these bright and shining lights, among our brethren of the past, might so light up the pathway and guide the footsteps of our brethren of the present, that among them may again be found those who, by their devotion to civil liberty, by their courage and skill, their firmness and their eloquence, by their wisdom, their patriotism, and unselfishness, may bring honor to our Fraternity, and peace to our country."

The committee on "Uniformity of Work," make quite a lengthy report. Among the reasons assigned for want of uniformity are the following: Attempts by Masters of [] to *improve* the work by substituting words and ideas of their own, or making additions to give beauty and finish;—rushing candidates through the several Degrees so rapidly that the three are jumbled into one confused mass;—the want of a standard work; and the abandonment of lecturing in []. Upon the two latter points, and the remedy proposed, we quote at length:

"At the Annual Communication of this Grand [], held in May, 1852, a committee was appointed to 'revise the work and lectures,' which committee made a report (exemplifying the work) to the Grand [], at a special Communication held in Bridgeport, March 22, 1853. The Grand [] approved and adopted, 'as the recognized work of this Grand [],' that exhibited by the committee; and for several years the [] of this State were required to adopt and abide by that system. But at the Annual Communication of 1859, the Grand [] repealed 'all votes adopted in regard to work' at its special session in Bridgeport—and substituting nothing, left the Subordinate [] without any pattern by which to work. Since which period, the Craft have been in the condition of the Children of Israel at a certain time, of which it is written, 'In those days there was no king in Israel, every man did that which was right in his own eyes.'

"The principal reason, however, in the judgment of your committee, for the variety in our modes of work, is the fact that the system of lecturing in the [] has fallen almost totally into disuse. We are informed by aged brethren, that in the days when they were young men, it was the universal custom to rehearse, at each regular assembling of the [], the entire lecture of one or more Degrees; and thus the traditions of Masonry, in the language of the lectures, were impressed upon the memory of each brother: and by the continued repetition, they became so familiar to him, that the lapse of years and the encroachments of age have failed to erase them from his recollection. The lectures being the foundation of the work of Masonry, it is almost impossible for one having a correct understanding of them, to perform the work unskillfully. No member of your committee has ever heard the entire lecture of either Degree rehearsed in any [] in this State; nor do we know of any [] where it is regularly done; but we do know of many Masons, of good standing in their various [], who have not the remotest idea of what those lectures are.

"We have thus stated, as briefly as possible, some of the reasons which in our judgment have operated to produce a lack of uniformity among us;

and if we have judged correctly, it would seem proper and necessary to pave the way to uniformity with a reformation of the evils noticed. In entering upon the performance of the duties assigned us by the Grand , we have not supposed it to be any part of our business to seek for, or to invent, (if that were possible,) any new system of work. To such inventions much of the confusion now existing among the Craft is due, and further innovations of that kind would but add to the confusion; and we are of opinion that the only possible method of attaining to uniformity consists in abandoning all the errors and innovations of the immediate past, and returning with one consent to the system of work and lectures promulgated in this country during the latter part of the eighteenth and the early years of the present century, by Webb, Gleason, Barney and others.

"Considering it possible that a few words in reference to Thomas Smith Webb, (who acquired his knowledge of the rituals of Masonry from William Preston, about the year 1795,) may be of interest to some members of the Grand , we remark, that William Preston began a reformation in rituals, in London, England, about the year 1775. He collected the fragments of the old rituals then accessible, put them together, and taught them to the . Within twenty years, nearly all the in England, Ireland and Scotland adopted his work, and practically secured uniformity. Webb, who was well versed in this Preston work, came to the United States and immediately began to disseminate it. He published the first edition of his Monitor in Albany, New York, in 1797; several editions followed, copies of which are still extant. In fact, all publications of similar character, of whatever name, have been but reprints of Webb, with such alterations as the caprice of the authors led them to make. He died in 1819, having produced marvels of uniformity during his marked career. Aided by his co-laborers, he carried his work into every jurisdiction, with the exception of Pennsylvania. After his death, his pupils, being apparently prompted to beget offspring of their own, began to change and innovate to suit their own taste; and the terms "Cross work," "Barney work," and the like, usurped that of "Preston work," or "Webb work." This, with the "Anti-Masonic" warfare of 1826 to 1836, laid the foundation of our present confusion.

"Your committee are satisfied that the Webb Lectures have been preserved in their original purity, and that they are attainable at the present time. So far as we have been able to examine them, we are satisfied that they do not vary in any essential particular from the work practiced in many of our Connecticut , and that by the use of the proper means by the Grand , and the cordial and earnest co-operation of the Subordinate , the difficulties in the way of attaining to uniformity in our State, will be easily overcome. The Grand Master, in his address to the Grand at its last annual meeting, made this remark: 'It is well known that within a few years several attempts have been made to render the work uniform in our jurisdiction, and that they all in a measure failed.' We are of the opinion that the failures spoken of are the result of that prejudice entertained by almost every one of us, in favor of the work as we received it and have been in the habit of performing it. It has been taught us as the correct Masonic work, and we have believed it and cherished it as such, and have felt an unwillingness to relinquish it for something with which we are not familiar. While entertaining such prejudices, and acting upon them, uniformity is an impossibility. The absence of any Grand Lecturer or recognized exponent of the work, has given this prejudice full scope to do its mischief. If uniformity is necessary to the preservation and success of Masonry, it is important that we should at once divest ourselves of the idea that the work as we have it, is the true Masonic work, and yield a prompt and cheerful obedience to the edicts of the Grand , and learn and practice only such system of work as this body may approve and adopt.

"In order that the work and lectures of Masonry may be correctly disseminated, your committee unanimously recommend to the Grand the appointment of a Grand Lecturer, whose duty it shall be to obtain and teach, by himself or such Deputy Grand Lecturers as he may select, (subject to the approval of the Grand Master), the Webb work and lectures;

and that the Subordinate [] be instructed to use only such work and lectures as the Grand Lecturer shall authorize. Also, that it be recommended to every Master of a Subordinate [], to rehearse for the instruction of the members thereof, at every regular Communication, a portion of the same.

"In accordance with these views your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

"1. *Resolved*, That this Grand [] approves and adopts, as the true standard of Masonic work, the lectures as rehearsed by the brethren under the direction of the Committee on Uniformity of Work; and that the [] under the jurisdiction of this Grand [] are hereby instructed to conform to that standard, and to use and teach no other system.

"2. *Resolved*, That a Grand Lecturer be appointed by the Grand Master, and it shall be his duty to instruct the [], and the officers thereof, in said lectures; and the Grand Lecturer may, (by and with the consent of the Grand Master) appoint such Deputy Grand Lecturers as he may consider necessary for the dissemination of the work.

"3. *Resolved*, That when the Grand Lecturer, or any Deputy Grand Lecturer is called away from the town in which he resides, for the purpose of instruction, he shall receive from the [] or [] so calling him, his actual traveling expenses, and two dollars per day for the time so spent by him.

"4. *Resolved*, That the [] under the jurisdiction of this Grand [] be, and they are hereby recommended to devote a portion of the time of each regular Communication, to rehearsing the Masonic lectures as approved and adopted by this Grand [].

"5. *Resolved*, That no candidate for the second or third Degree in Masonry, shall be passed or raised in any Subordinate [] of this jurisdiction until he shall be able to rehearse at least the first section of the lectures of the preceding Degree—except in cases of emergency, to be determined by the unanimous vote of the brethren present."

These resolutions were, after an exemplification of the work, adopted.

The Grand Secretary in his report on Foreign Correspondence, noticing the reviews by others of the Conservators' Association, expresses "the hope and belief that the ramifications of this dangerous conspiracy have not yet reached Connecticut, and that they never will. We would fain hope that Connecticut Masons are of too stable a character to be carried away with any of these too patent humbugs."

The Grand Master, Alvin P. Hyde, and the Grand Secretary, Lucius E. Hunt, were re-elected.

MARYLAND.

Any one who has read year after year the reports of M.: W.: J. N. McJilton, as Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and so become conscious of what a great, good heart he has, will only see "just what they expected," in the following quotation from his address:

"In visiting the hospitals of Maryland, I discovered among the sick and wounded, a number of Masonic brethren whom I believed would be much benefited and pleased at having a Masonic brother visit them and perform on their behalf, such needed services as they would be more likely to entrust to him than to others. I immediately entered into correspondence upon the subject with my brethren, the Grand Masters of twenty-four

jurisdictions. I have received replies from —, — of whom heartily approve the measure, and promise a contribution of fifty dollars each towards the accomplishment of so desirable an object. I accordingly appointed our Rev. Bro. Robert Piggot, D. D., Deputy Grand Chaplain, by appointment, who has been engaged in the work nearly three months. He has ministered to the Masonic brethren of the hospitals much to their gratification, and he has relived the necessities of a number of them, assisting others in their correspondence and in various ways. This has turned out to be a true Masonic philanthropy, and promises a fair return for the trouble and expense occasioned by it.

"I have accompanied Brother Piggot on some occasions of his visits, and have been much gratified in conversation with brethren who appeared to be grateful for the attention thus shown them. It is worthy of remark that a very large proportion of the Masonic brethren of the army are officers; some of them are highly intelligent and experienced workmen. Our brother Piggot is engaged every day in this work of benevolence. I have received a brief report of his labors to the present date. A more extended one will be prepared hereafter. If it be the pleasure of the Grand □, the report will be submitted for its consideration. Copies of the report will be sent to our brethren, the Grand Masters, who have co-operated in the enterprise."

The following is the report of Brother Piggot, referred to in the above extract :

"BALTIMORE, May 11th, 1863.

"REV. JOHN N. M'JILTON, D. D., *Grand Master of the Grand □ of Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland*,—

"MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR :

"Having on the sixteenth day of February last been appointed by you, with the advice and consent of Grand Masters of a number of other Masonic jurisdictions, a Masonic Chaplain, for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual and temporal necessities and comforts of Masonic brothers, who may be among the sick and wounded of the camps and hospitals of Maryland, the undersigned begs leave to report as follows :

"Ever since the very commencement of the awful strife now raging in our land, he has labored among the camps, hospitals, and families of the soldiers in the service, often with your kind presence, aiding and assisting. And, as you have had the proof of, from the beginning of his labors in this line, he has always been very particular in inquiring for and conversing with his Masonic brethren. He has preached at camps, forts, and hospitals. Once in your presence he baptized a child in camp ; once administered communion at Fort McHenry. He has delivered a number of addresses, and distributed religious works to the patients in the different wards of our hospitals ; has received and distributed money to the families of soldiers ; has received and distributed hospital stores, and attended a number of soldiers' funerals. In about eighteen months, he has delivered sermons and addresses at camp and hospital, thirty-four times.

"He is recognized by commission from his Excellency, Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, as Commissioner for that State ; also, as the visiting agent of the Union Relief Association of this city ; both of these positions without any compensation.

"The undersigned most respectfully urges upon his Masonic brethren, to aid and assist him in the work and labor of love in which he occupies himself, almost exclusive of every other occupation of his time.

"All of which is most respectfully submitted by their affectionate brother and humble servant,

"ROBERT PIGGOT."

The Grand □ adopted the following :

"Resolved, That the Rev. Bro. Robert Piggot be, and he is hereby authorized to visit all the Masonic wounded or sick brethren, whom he may

find among the hospitals or elsewhere, without regard to their nativity, and administer to their physical and spiritual wants as far as he can."

Bro. Joseph Robinson, Grand Secretary for upwards of twenty years, died after a few days illness, on the 14th of March last, at the age of seventy-six. A fitting testimonial is recorded.

The death of Bro. Richard Macubbin, former Grand Secretary, at the advanced age of eighty-one, is also noticed, and the proper testimonial ordered.

INDIANA.

Alluding to the rebellion, Grand Master Fravel says :

"The desolations of this war have been most keenly felt by almost every ☐ in this Grand Jurisdiction—in the valleys, and on the hill and mountain sides of the south sleep the loved ones, who, but a short time since, knelt around our sacred altars. We can but mourn their departure, while, at the same time, we do know that they have fallen in a noble and glorious cause, and the sprig of Acacia blooms at the head of their graves. They died in the defence of the honor of our common country.

"What, my brethren, will Masonry be worth, if this beautiful temple of social and political liberty is to be torn down, and all our rights and privileges scattered to the winds of heaven. No, we must manfully struggle on, and maintain our nationality at every hazard, cost what it may ; and although as Masons we may not possess the power, and have not the arm of ability to roll back the fearful scourge, still we can do much in pouring the oil of brotherly love over these waters of strife. In the conflict now before us—

"Truth will open up the way,
And the Eternal God, the Builder,
Be our comfort and our stay."

"See to it then, my brethren, that you do your whole duty ; for we can be Masons only when we are *faithful* to our *God*, *true* to our *country*, and *fraternal* to our *fellow-man*."

The following question was submitted for decision :

"A brother in good standing in this ☐ has gone south, joined the Confederate army, received a commission therein, and is now in arms against the Government of the United States—can the ☐ expel him?"

The Grand Master decided that "for that act alone he could not be expelled," and quotes the second chapter of the ancient charges in support of such decision. Bro. Hacker, present Grand Master, as chairman of Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, reported adversely, not believing the law quoted to be correctly applied, and would answer, "*expel him*, and expel him quickly, and should you ever catch him engaged in his unholy purposes, treat him just as you would the assassin, who, in the dead hour of night, would, with stealth, enter your bed-chamber, and there, while carrying out his purposes of robbery, plunge the dagger to the heart of the wife reposing on your bosom."

This report was laid on the table.

A select committee on the state of the country made a report, from which the following extract is given :

"Your committee are of the opinion that Masonry regards rebellion against civil government as a heinous crime, which should be promptly repudiated. We would further say, that in speaking out as Masons on the subject of the present wicked and unholy rebellion, which has for nearly three years distracted our once happy country, and so deranged our commercial and social relations, we do not consider that we are interfering with any Mason's political opinions, which we as Masons are bound to respect.

"Our brethren who have gone forth to do battle for their country, should know full well that while we, as [] or as a Grand Body, have no power to pass laws or edicts against an enemy in arms, foreign or domestic, yet we have no sympathy with such enemies, either [] Masonic, civil or political, and we will use all the means within our power to hold up the hands of our brethren who have gone forth in defence of our country, cheer the hearts and relieve the wants of their families at home, and go to their relief, in all times of distress, if within our power. And we hope to bear a part in erecting a monument of imperishable record upon which to inscribe their names, that their sons and the sons of their brethren after them, may learn that they were true and worthy Masons, and because they were true Masons, they were true patriots and loyal to their country and the interests of humanity."

This report was unanimously concurred in.

The Grand [] dues against all members of Subordinate [], while in the military service of their country, was remitted.

The deaths of P. . G. . M. . Henry C. Lawrence, and G. . S. . D. . Robert M. Gilkeson, are recorded, and a touching eulogy upon the character and life of Bro. Lawrence, is published.

Grand Secretary, Bro. Francis King, re-elected.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

On the 12th and 15th of February, 1862, this Grand [] was convened "for the purpose of considering the propriety of granting a dispensation to Brother Theodore G. Palmer and others, to form a new Masonic [] in the city of Alexandria, Virginia." The questions involved were fully presented by the Grand Master, and P. . G. . Master French. From the addresses of the former we make the following extracts :

"I have called the Grand [] together in Special Communication for the purpose of submitting to them a question which, I think, is beyond my province as Grand Master, to decide. I have received a petition from Theodore G. Palmer, and nine others, who are vouched for as worthy Master Masons, praying for a Dispensation to form a new [] in the city of Alexandria, Va. Brother Palmer represents to me that there is no [] now working in that city, and that no charter can be found, everything appertaining to the [] formerly existing there having been removed, and that the Masons residing there are thus cut off from all enjoyment of their Masonic privileges. It is also stated that the Grand [] of Virginia forbids those working under its jurisdiction to recognize or hold Masonic intercourse with Masons who adhere to their allegiance to the Union.

"Under ordinary circumstances, a petition of this kind could not have been for a moment entertained by the Grand Master or the Grand [] of this jurisdiction; because to grant such a Dispensation would have been a clear invasion of the territory of a sister Grand []—an act which the Masons of this country have uniformly repudiated. The question for us now is, whether the present state of things would justify us in establishing a new precedent, in order to afford our brethren of the loyal part of Virginia, the rights and benefits of our Order.

"Upon this question I do not intend to express—indeed I have not formed—a decided opinion. It is certainly very undesirable that any considerable portion of the Fraternity should, for an indefinite period, be cut off from the advantages of ☐ intercourse and instruction. The spirit of Fraternity languishes and dies when thus deprived of its proper aliment. But no advantage is to be purchased at the expense of a wrong.

"If the proposed Dispensation can be fairly considered an invasion of the jurisdiction of the Grand ☐ of Virginia, I am inclined to think it ought to be refused; but can it be so considered, if the Grand ☐ of that State has practically and voluntarily repudiated her jurisdiction over all the loyal portion of her territory, and left the Fraternity there without the means of Masonic intercourse or discipline, and destitute of Masonic government? Does not that part of her domain revert to the condition of a territory in which no Grand ☐ has ever been established, and in which, therefore, the Dispensations of any Grand ☐ are valid until a proper local Grand ☐ has been organized?"

* * * * *

"It will not be gainsayed that, for a Grand ☐ to grant warrants of Constitution for ☐ outside of its geographical jurisdiction is not, necessarily, an act of usurpation. There are cases in which it is universally admitted to be proper, as in the case of California, before cited, anterior to the organization of its Grand ☐. In order to make the grant of a warrant of constitution improper, it must invade the jurisdiction of a Grand ☐ which is in the actual exercise of Masonic authority over the territory where such warrant goes into operation. In Masonry, as in civil life, we have to recognize facts as they are. The government *de facto* is that which we must respect; and the government that cannot be found—that exercises no act of sovereignty—that can neither grant privileges, afford protection, nor punish offenders, is as if it were not, in Masonic, as well as civil, contemplation.

"This Grand ☐ originally held jurisdiction over the Masons of Alexandria. It never formally resigned it, but tacitly admitted that it was transferred to the Grand ☐ of Virginia by the act of the Federal Government in retroceding that portion of the District of Columbia to the State of Virginia. What, then, is it which regulates our status in regard to that portion of the District? Evidently, the action of the Federal Government. The act of the Federal Government brought that territory under our jurisdiction in the first place. Its act took it away from us, and its act can restore it. The condition of that territory, Masonically, is regulated by the status accorded to it by the Federal Government. That this has been so in the past cannot be denied.

"Now, the Federal Government does not acknowledge, at the present time, the jurisdiction of the disloyal government of Virginia over that State. On the contrary, it recognizes another government, loyal to itself, and quite exceptional, irregular, and provisional, in its stead. If the recognition of the Federal Government is our guide, ought we to recognize the jurisdiction of a disloyal Grand ☐ any more than the Federal Government recognizes a disloyal State Government?

"Is, then, the Grand ☐ of Virginia loyal or disloyal? I think there is not a member of this body who believes that she is loyal. At all events her exercise of jurisdiction is actually and practically confined to the disloyal part of the State. If disloyal, we are not bound to respect her jurisdiction. If loyal, and her authority is suspended, by circumstances beyond her control, over a part of her jurisdiction, she ought, if she has the true spirit of Masonry, to be grateful to any Grand ☐ that will step in and do her duty for her during a temporary and unavoidable disability. Such an act is really one of comety and friendship, not of aggression.

"I regard, then, that part of the State of Virginia which is cut off from communication with the Grand ☐, as a Territory fairly open to any and all Grand ☐, as much so as if it had never enjoyed any Masonic privileges. Should these unhappy national difficulties be composed, and Virginia resume her former place in this great and glorious union, her Grand ☐ will be restored to her authority over all ☐ within her geographical

limits. The temporary warrant will be resigned to her, and her right of jurisdiction acknowledged by the Fraternity here and everywhere."

Past Grand Master French, in a letter to the Grand Master upon the subject, says :

"From your address I learn that the Grand ☐ of Virginia forbids those working under its jurisdiction to recognize or hold Masonic intercourse with Masons who adhere to their allegiance to the Union. No more high handed, outrageous, unmasonic proceeding could be had. Just as well might any Grand ☐ in America attempt to prevent Masonic intercourse with Masons in Europe, and thus deprive Freemasonry of its most social, useful, and benevolent feature. Such things cannot be permitted by the great body of Freemasonry, and it is the sacred duty of the Grand ☐ of the District of Columbia, at this capital of the Union, and nearest to Virginia, to take the initiative in rebuking so infernal a Masonic heresy. Are we to fold our arms, and stand by and see our true brethren in Virginia thus trodden in the dust by the heel of political despotism, in the garb, but without the soul of Freemasonry? I trust not. We must help them—we must step boldly forward and afford them aid to enjoy their inalienable rights and privileges, until madness ceases to rule those who now control the Grand ☐ of Virginia.

"I had doubts until I ascertained precisely the action of that Grand ☐. Those doubts are now removed, and I do not hesitate one moment to counsel the Grand ☐ of the District of Columbia to authorize its Grand Master to issue dispensations to loyal and worthy brethren anywhere in Virginia to open ☐ and proceed to work, until the Grand ☐ of Virginia shall return to the principles of Freemasonry, and assume her legitimate sphere among the Grand ☐ of the Union, and, I may say, of the world."

The resolution offered by Past Grand Master Whiting, advising the Grand Master to issue the dispensations, was adopted by a vote of 23 to 12, and the dispensation was subsequently issued.

Bro. Stevens, in his report on Foreign Correspondence, noticing our Proceedings for 1860, says :

"There is a report on Correspondence in the Proceedings, which interested us very much till we arrived at the bottom of page 72 when, on the next page, we came abruptly upon 'sheriff, plaintiff, defendant, fraud, indictment, jury, judgment,' and so on. What the world these had to do with a Foreign Correspondence we could not imagine. After mature reflection, we concluded that there must have been a printers' banquet at St. Paul, at which something stronger than lemonade was used for the toasts, and before its exhilarating effects passed away, a portion of the statutes of the State of Minnesota were struck off and bound up with the Grand ☐ Proceedings. If so, we do not blame you, Bro. Pierson, for opposing banquets."

If that copy of the Proceedings can be returned for "home consumption"—it being "the only one of the kind" extant—we will replace it with a correct copy, bound after the perfumes of the lemonade had evaporated.

Bro. Stevens takes up that portion of our Grand Master's address of 1861 which discusses the question of ☐ action upon disloyal expressions and conduct of its members, and says, after quoting from Grand Master Pierson's address :

"We can not subscribe to these conclusions, nor reconcile our consciences to passing them in silence.

"Masonry has no attribute that can justify, or even countenance, disloyalty or rebellion. Its first teachings to the citizen are, that he is to

be 'peaceable.' He is 'never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation.' He is 'cheerfully to conform to every lawful authority,' and 'zealously promote the prosperity of his own country.'

"No partisan has been found bold enough to deny that our Government has been lawfully constituted. It is, then, a 'lawful authority,' and, as Masons, we must cheerfully conform to its demands.

"If our nation were at law with another nation, then brethren, in the discharge of their duties as *citizens* and as *Masons*, might find themselves arrayed under opposing banners. Herein, as we conceive, the error of many Masons lies. We are not at war with another nation. Our lawful authorities are assailed by rebellious subjects. Arms have been taken to overthrow the Government to which, as Masons, our allegiance is due.

"The brother in Minnesota has not even the much abused dogma of 'State Sovereignty' to justify his 'sympathy with the south.' His State is loyal and true to the national authority. So, then, whether paramount allegiance is due to the State or to the General Government, he is, to the extent of his sympathies, disloyal, and no true Mason. Many Masons are doubtless, conscientiously in arms against the government, because of the action of their States, and of the duties they believe are thereby imposed upon them.

"Our Minnesota brother has not even this plea to justify his 'sympathies.' In any view his 'sympathies' are disloyal, and, if ripened into acts, would be treason. Among the blackest of crimes is treason, and close by its side is disloyalty. Can it be possible that while we may close our  against every other known crime, we have no power to exclude this? Shall a man openly proclaim and parade his disloyal sentiments, and his sympathies for those whose hands are red with the blood of our countrymen, and we be compelled, to not only remain silent, but also to clasp hands with him around the pure incense of our altars, and hail him as a brother? We have not so learned our Masonic duties.

"As A. E., we are charged to 'be quiet and peaceable subjects, true to our Government and just to our country. We are not to countenance disloyalty or treason, but patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the Government of the country in which we live.' If by the good opinion of his brethren, one of us is called to the highest post of honor in their gift, he may not assume the position without a solemn pledge that he will 'be a peaceable subject, and cheerfully conform to the laws of the country; and, moreover, that he 'will not be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the Government.' Thus it is seen that, whether at the threshold, or in the most holy place, Masonry steadily inculcates loyalty, and insists upon cheerful obedience to lawful authority.

"But our M. W. brother makes the following quotation from the Ancient Charges in support of his views:

"We are also of all nations, tongues, kindreds, and languages, and we are resolved against all *politics*, as what never yet conduced to the welfare of the , nor never will."

"Let us examine this one moment. Has *politics*, or politician, in any true sense of the words, any application whatever to him who seeks to overthrow government by force of arms, or who 'sympathizes' with the conspirators, and expresses himself 'in a bitter and uncalled for manner' against his Government? We opine not. Politics is the science of *government*. Disloyalty and rebellion are the exact reverse. One seeks to build, the other to overthrow. If, as Masons, we may not take part in the former, how does it happen that we may 'sympathize' with and be 'bitter' in our support of the latter?

"We think that no fair construction of the quotation will sustain the conclusion of our M. W. brother. Grant, however, that our construction is wrong, and that disloyalty and treason are fair synonyms of the word politics. If Masonry is firmly 'resolved against all politics, (disloyalty and treason,) why, in the name of reason, has it no power to enforce this resolution, and how does it happen that 'we can only pity' the offender 'as an unhappy man'?"

"Dr. Harris (Discourses, p. 204) says of the loyalty of Masons:

"If we appeal to fact, and to the history of all nations, we shall find that Freemasons have always been peaceable and orderly members of society. Submissive even under governments *the most intolerant and oppressive*, they silently cultivated their benevolent plan, and secured it confidence and protection by exhibiting in their conduct its mild, pacific and charitable tendencies. They excited *no factious resistance to established authorities, conspired in no turbulent or seditious schemes, exaggerated no grievances*, nor even joined in the clamors of popular discontent."

"We need not stop to show how illy all this comports with the conduct of the Minnesota brother 'of very radical political opinions,' who indulges in 'bitter and uncalled for' remarks, and openly avows 'his sympathy' for traitors armed for the overthrow of lawful authority."

"Section 2 of the 'Constitution of Masonry, or Ahimón Rezon,' concerning government and the civil magistrate, is clear and explicit, defining precisely our duties toward such Masons as this Minnesota brother. We make the following extracts:

"Whoever will be a true Mason, is further to know that *by the rules of his art* his obligations as a subject and citizen will not be relaxed, but enforced."

* * * * *

"But if any brother, by forgetting for a time the rules of his Craft, and listening to evil counsels, should unhappily fall into a contrary conduct, he is not to be countenanced in his crimes or rebellion against the State; *but he forfeits* all benefits of the □, and his fellows would refuse to associate or converse with him in private, while he continues in his crimes; that neither offence nor umbrage may be given to lawful government."

"Judged by this law, (and we apprehend none will dispute its authority), our Minnesota brother, if he will not cease his 'bitter and uncalled for' expressions, and can not control his 'sympathy' for rebellion, may not only be excluded from all 'benefits of the □,' but also from all right of private recognition."

"We have not entered upon this discussion in any captious spirit. We are living in troublous times. The most horrid form of war is desolating our beloved country. Masonry, like all other institutions, must and will suffer. Hers is a mission of peace and fraternity. Her spotless reputation is confided to our keeping, and we must see to it that when the 'mad frenzy of the hour' is past, no stain of treason, rebellion or disloyalty rests upon the portals of her sublime temple, and to this end let us invoke the assistance of the G. A. O. T. U.; that by inculcating, enforcing and strictly observing every tenet of our time-honored Institution, the flame of patriotism may burn brighter and purer in every heart, until peace shall once more return to gladden and bless a united and happy country."

Bro. Stevens puts in a plea for Bro. Rob. Morris and his new Order, deprecating the attacks made upon the Conservator's Association and its founder, calling the Degrees of that Order "side Degrees," and regarding them "as given by Brother Morris to secure the adoption of a Ritual, fully as harmless as the side Degrees for other purposes, given by some of those who so violently assail him." The money making part of the scheme is not without precedent, and Bro. Morris "is so benevolent and charitable as to be constantly on the poor list," while others "who like to make money by side degrees, or in any other way," "are only liberal with their money in ministering to their appetites."

The most serious objection, and one that does not apply to other so called side Degrees, is not noticed by Bro. Stevens. Bro. Morris proposes himself as sole dictator of ritualism for the whole country,

organizes a secret society for the promulgation of such work as he shall furnish, and instructs his disciples to get possession of the Subordinate and Grand ☐ offices in order to effect his designs. Wire-working for office is the direct and inevitable consequence of such a scheme. Other consequences, direct and inevitable, might be mentioned, to result from placing the authority proposed in the hands of any one man. We regard Conservatorism, in its relations to Masonry, as we regard Jesuitism in its relations to Roman Catholicism. Instead of giving more vigorous life to its parent, it will, if successful, absorb that parent's life and strength and energy into itself. The parasite killed the oak which it dressed in verdure, and fed and grew stronger and greener upon the decay of its victim. We think it right to expose this most unmasonic and hurtful move of "the distinguished Mason of Kentucky," and that neither his benevolence, his patriotism, his misfortunes, nor his poverty, should be an excuse for his course. We have no fears, however, that his plans will be accomplished. Bro. Morris, in his admiration of Loyola's wonderful scheme, seemed to have overlooked the great truth that a system, however plausible or deeply laid in cunning, which has once proved itself to be so pernicious a falsehood as to demand its destruction, can not be successfully imitated.

The Grand Master elect, Bro. Y. P. Page, was installed at his own house, the Grand ☐ having assembled there for the purpose. M. . W. . Brother Page did not long live to grace the position for which he was so worthy. By his decease, the duties of the office devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. G. . A. . Hall. Bro. W. M. Smith was elected Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

Sixty-fourth Annual Communication. The brethren in this State will have our warm sympathies. "In the midst of civil strife," is the sad record. Grand Master Huston says: the condition of Masonry within this State, like all things else, has suffered serious injury from the prevailing civil disorders. It is lamentably true that the harmony, good feeling and brotherly love among our Order, so essential to its prosperity, and so fundamental in its teachings, have in many ☐ been greatly impaired, if not entirely destroyed. In view of the legitimate effects of the civil and causeless rebellion that afflicts the country, of the loosening of legal restraints, and the riot of uncurbed passions, this result was to be expected."

Attention is called to the necessity of some action "to secure uniformity of ceremonial upon funeral occasions, and especially in the *habit* and *regalia* of brethren in funeral processions." The Grand

□ adopted a resolution, "that the only proper regalia worn at the burial of a Master Mason, by Master Masons, is the regalia of the Master Mason's Degree, which is the plain white apron and gloves."

The Grand Master refers to "Uniformity of Work in Subordinate □ as a great desideratum." "Let not, however, the ancient Landmarks be lost sight of," he adds, "and give no listening ear to innovations and new lights, under the pretext of securing this uniformity. Uniformity upon the old and tried pathways, is the *good thing* to be sought after."

An amendment to the Constitution was proposed and laid over, that it shall be the duty of the G. . M. . and G. . S. . Wardens to exemplify the work and give the lectures in the first three Degrees of Masonry, on the second day of each Grand Annual Communication.

The following report was concurred in, and the resolution adopted, and the Grand Secretary was ordered to forward them "as soon as possible, in printed form, to each Subordinate □, to be laid before such □, * * * * and a copy of the same to be sent to the Grand □ of Missouri, Tennessee, and Illinois :"

"The special committee appointed at the last Annual Communication of the Grand □, to whom was referred the resolution of Brother Sadler, respecting the secret order styled by themselves 'Conservators,' and to whom was also, at this Communication referred the resolutions from the Grand □ of Missouri, and a communication from the Grand □ of Tennessee, beg leave to report, that they have not had sufficient time at the present session, to give the subject submitted to them the consideration its importance demands. It is impossible in the hurry necessarily incident upon the members of the Grand □ engaged in the ordinary business of the Craft, and determined to finish that business within the space of four days, to investigate in a proper manner, a subject fraught with so much interest not only to individual brethren, but to the Craft at large. They therefore ask permission to meet at Louisville during the recess of the Grand □, that they may satisfactorily consider this important matter, and to report their proceedings to the next Annual Communication. Meanwhile, that no injury may happen to the Craft in consequence of this postponement of action on the part of the committee, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz :

"Resolved, That until the Grand □ of Kentucky shall otherwise order and determine, all so called Conservators, and all other persons not specially authorized by this Grand □, are hereby prohibited and forbidden to lecture or work the so called Conservator's work in any Subordinate □ or □, open schools of Masonic instruction, or lecture in any way on the subject of Masonic work either to individual Masons, or to □, or assemblies of such, within this Masonic jurisdiction; or to sell or dispose of any books prepared by said secret Order, or any member thereof, to any Mason owing Masonic allegiance to this Grand □; and all such Masons and □ are hereby forbidden to hear such lectures and work, or to purchase or receive such so called Masonic books, or to unite themselves with said body of Conservators."

Bro. Thomas Sadler was elected Grand Master, and P. . G. . M. . Bro. J. M. S. McCorkle, Grand Secretary.

CANADA.

The Grand Master, alluding to the announcement made at the preceding Communication, of the death of the Prince Consort, pays a high tribute to his great virtues, touches tenderly upon the Queen's heavy sorrow, and says he has a more cheerful announcement to make at the commencement of this Masonic year, namely, the happy marriage of the Prince of Wales. "How fair is the flower," says he, "that now clings to our Prince. A distinguished novelist, Bulwer, tells that our Saxon King Harold promised a Danish invader six feet of English ground, or as he was a tall man, seven feet. Now, all Britain may be said to be at the disposal of the heretofore Flower of Denmark, Alexandra of England, Princess of Wales."

The death of the M. W. Bro. Sir Allen Napier McNabb, is announced, and a tribute paid to his memory. The general condition of the Craft continues prosperous and satisfactory. The difficulty with the [] of England is reported as virtually at an end, the very best feelings of cordiality existing. Relations with such of the [] on this continent as can be communicated with, "are of the most friendly and satisfactory nature."

The Grand Master having received an invitation to attend the "National Masonic Convention," at New York, reports his action as follows :

"I thought it right to decline being present—first, because my attendance might have been looked upon as an unauthorized interference in a domestic quarrel, with which Canada had nothing to do—and, secondly, because no southern brethren could have an opportunity of giving expression to their feelings. But, although as your Grand Master, I considered it proper to observe a *Masonic neutrality*, I conveyed the assurance that this Grand [] would be exceedingly glad to witness a happy conclusion to this terrible estrangement between men and brethren belonging to the same nation—a restoration of ancient good feeling and common Brotherhood—and a stop put to the deadly animosity, that the force of daily events demonstrate does really exist; and that she would gladly co-operate toward such a result, if she could do so with propriety and certainty. I have since perused with sincere pleasure, articles in the newspapers relating to this subject, and conversed with brethren from the United States, and my impression is that an approach to a better state of things has commenced to show itself, and that (to use the language of a New York paper) 'Northern Masons are placed once more on a social footing with their southern brethren, thereby illustrating the principles of friendship and brotherly love—the watchwords of Masons all over the world.'"

The address concludes as follows :

"May this, our common country, be spared from the curse of war, and all its concomitant evils. But should it be our lot to be tried by such a scourge, may we and all belonging to us, or in whom we take an interest, be spared to meet again, after doing our duty zealously and fearlessly, as faithful subjects of a Sovereign on whose dominions the sun never sets, and loyal citizens of an Empire, where, under the fostering shelter of the

rose, the shamrock, the thistle, and our own maple, freedom and protection reign triumphant."

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

CALIFORNIA.

Grand Master Belcher announces to the brethren the gratifying fact that they meet "with a fuller representation of ☐ than ever before, and under the most favorable auspices." The Communication was held, too, in their own Grand ☐ Hall, in the city of San Francisco, upon which more than \$150,000 have already been expended without completing it. "It is," says he, "the finest and most perfect building on the Pacific Coast, and, when finished, will be the most beautiful, if not the most expensive, Masonic Temple in America." The subject of one or more ballots for the three Degrees, has been heretofore discussed by your committee. The Grand Master calls attention to the subject, and we make the following extract:

"I think there should be but one ballot for the three Degrees, and if, by a fair construction, the law as it is, does not prohibit absolutely the use of more than one, I advise that it be so amended that it will. I learn from the Grand Secretary that only seven or eight of our ☐ use more than one ballot. Such as do have the right to continue to use three.

"We can not be too careful in our precautions against the admission of improper persons to a participation in our mysteries, but it seems to me that our precautions should be taken in the first instance—that we should guard with greater vigilance the entrance to the ground floor of our temple. As Masonry is at present constituted, it is idle to say that one is good enough to be an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, but is not worthy to be received among Masters. If he is worthy to be a Mason at all, he is worthy to enter the innermost sanctuary of our temple—to know all its mysteries. If he is not worthy to enter and be received as a brother there, he is not worthy to enter the outermost gates, and having entered he is not worthy to stay. The time to make diligent inquiry of a man's fitness is before we admit him to the outer door of the ☐. We have surely stationed guards enough to protect all the approaches to the temple, if they do their duty. We require a residence of twelve months in the State and six months in the midst of the particular community of which the candidate seeks to become a member, before his petition can be received. The petitioner must be recommended to the ☐ by two of its own members, who, by their recommendation, vouch for his standing and character as a man. A committee of investigation is appointed, who should 'diligent inquiry and true report make' of the mental, moral, and physical character of the applicant—of the fact that he is a good man—of his fitness to be and become a good Mason. In addition to all this, we require a unanimous ballot.

"It would be difficult to devise surer and better means of determining the fitness of the applicant, if all do their duty. Yet, with all our precautions, unworthy men do, from time to time, seek and obtain admission to our ☐. The fault most frequently lies with the committees of investigation. They neglect their duty, and present false reports to cover neglect. Whenever such a committee reports favorably, no matter in what form of words their report may be couched, they say to the ☐: 'We have carefully investigated the character of that man, and we know him to be sober, industrious, a good citizen, a good man in all the relations of life—one whom we may safely receive into our society, and welcome as an equal and a brother—one who will do honor to us as a Mason;' and when they report favorably or unfavorably, without due inquiry and reliable information, their report is false."

When a Mason shows in an eminent degree his practical attachment and devotion to the principles of our Order, and makes use of the position and the influence which his virtues have secured to him only to do still greater things in the line of Masonry's beneficent teachings, we think his virtues should be a matter of record everywhere as examples for imitation. We therefore endorse the following extract from the address of Grand Master Belcher :

"What truer or nobler act has been done than was done by Bro. J. Q. A. Fellows, Grand Master of Louisiana, and a few of the Masons of New Orleans, who, when Federal prisoners were first taken to that city, early in the war, in the midst of the most intense popular excitement, and in spite of the clamors and threats of the infuriated populace, fearlessly did their duty as Masons—sought out their brethren in distress, and did, in very deed, visit those that were sick and in prison—did feed the hungry, clothe the naked, watch over the sick, and speak kindly words of comfort and consolation to the dying. Such deeds are worthy of perpetual record. They tell us of true manhood and incite us to be true men."

W. Bro. Thomas Star King, Grand Orator, delivered an address, having for its subject "Organization," which he styles as "the great word of the world." He starts out with the proposition that "The Almighty is the Organizer." The following suggestions, so beautifully clothed, are good for profitable meditation :

"This is the most remarkable social organization of the world. None on the globe, with half so many elements in its composition, is so old. We are told of late that excavations made under modern Jerusalem disclose remnants of the old city in various periods of its history. Portions of the massive masonry of the time of Solomon, are uncovered. Above these appear fragments of the work of Zerubbabel. On a higher historic stratum are specimens of workmanship from the age of Herod the Great ; and still above these, but below the level of the present city, are remains of the constructive toil ordered by Justinian. We delight to feel, brethren, that the past, measured by as many ages, is under us ; but it is not beneath us in a broken symmetry, and a dead grandeur, as under Jerusalem. It is rather beneath us as the roots are beneath a tree, and as the central rings are hidden in the trunk. They give power and pith to the structure still. They are part of its present majesty, sources of its living vigor, prophecies of its future strength.

"We should take satisfaction, brethren, nay, a nobler pride, in the consciousness of the age and vastness of our organization. If a stone in St. Peters could be conscious, or any portion of the wall or spire of Strasburg Cathedral, do you not think that it would rejoice in its position, that it would be exultant over its partnership with other stones in rearing the grandeur of such a pile for such worthy uses ? If any fragment of such an edifice could be conscious, and did not feel any pride, or any privilege, in its position and its call, would its indifference be a merit, or a shame rather ? How shall it be with us ? Shall we not feel that there is dignity, that there is privilege, in being living fibres of an organization which has passed from one era of the world to another, which is older than the oldest empire of Christendom, which has on its roll names that sparkle in history like the sovereign stars, and which exists, not for purposes of private aggrandizement, or the selfish joy of its members, but to give deeper root to good principles in the world, and to diffuse the spirit of peace and order ? If a Mason is not grateful and glad over his fellowship, it is because he does not appreciate the value in the world of the organization of good."

The Grand Master elect was installed by the first Grand Master

of California, who in the course of a few remarks indulges in the following interesting comparisons between "then and now :"

"Thirteen years ago, he who now addresses you was installed the first Grand Master of Masons in California : and it may not be uninteresting to the younger members of the Fraternity to have their attention called to the wondrous changes which have marked the progress of our beloved Order since that eventful period.

"The first Grand Master assumed his station, surrounded only by the representatives of three chartered —all that were at that time within the borders of the State; and their authority was derived from three Grand  of different States. You, Worshipful Brother, are about to be installed for the second time, surrounded by the representatives of nearly one hundred and fifty , all of whom have received their charters from the Grand  of California. The emblem of his high office, with which the first Grand Master was invested at his installation, was of plain silver, (if not of baser metal) borrowed from a Subordinate , and was worn suspended by a tape string, or faded ribbon. The jewel which you have worn for the past year, and with which I am now about to again invest you, is of gold, and the hangings from which it is suspended are of royal purple, most elaborately fringed and wrought with bullion and threads of the precious metals—the product of our own great State. The first Grand Master was installed in a Masonic Hall of humble dimensions, in an obscure place, with space scarcely sufficient for the accommodation of fifty members. You, sir, are about to be installed within a temple of ample accommodation for thousands, which, for magnificent proportions and architectural beauty, is unequalled in any of the States of the Union, and is at this time unsurpassed, if indeed it be equaled, for its splendor and magnificence, by any Masonic Temple upon earth. This, among other wondrous changes, has been wrought by the devotion of the Craft to our noble Order, in the short space of thirteen years.

"Wonderful and progressive as have been all the institutions of our golden State in that short period, none, no, not one, has equaled in progressive advancement, and in usefulness to the community in which we live, (save and except the religion of the Saviour of man,) that of the Order of Free and Accepted Masons."

Bro. Claiborne, in his report on Foreign Correspondence, copies the expose of Conservatorism given by Grand Master Pierson, saying that he does so "because it reveals the history of an organization so entirely at variance, as we conceive, with the spirit and principles of our Order, that every member of the Craft should be warned against the fascinating snare."

Brother Claiborne—who, by the way, is Deputy Grand Master—makes the following excellent remarks upon the evils resulting from dispensations to hurry through the Degrees :

"In our experience as a Mason we have seen so much of the evil effects of dispensations in such cases, that we have grown almost unmasonically stern and uncompromising in our opposition to all easy methods of making Masons, and we recognize in these sudden applications and new-born aspirations to be listed upon the roll of our ancient and honorable Order, only that mercenary spirit, which, looking clear-sighted for the benefits, totally disqualifies a man from ever becoming a real Mason, even though he should have received the Degrees. Passing shabbily from the quarries to the presence chamber, storing the memory by rote with the ritual, without comprehending the spirit or ever discovering the grand, the noble and the beautiful, which underlies, no more makes a Mason, than memorizing the signs of the zodiac, and the Chaldee and Syriac characters, would have made a magus for Belshazzar; hence, while acknowledging the ex-

istence of the high prerogative which rests in the Grand Master, of making Masons at sight, as it is called, and confessing our faith generally in the wisdom of those to whom the power is trusted, yet we are almost driven to fall back in refuge and defence from modern progress, and advocate the old system practiced by the  in requiring one year probation between each Degree."

The deaths of M.: W.: Bro. Charles Gilman and W.: Brother Humphrey Griffeth, are subjects of special notice. The following is the record of Bro. Gilman's Masonic career :

"He was a true man and a zealous Mason. Two years Grand Master of Masons in the State of New Hampshire, six years Grand Master of Masons in the State of Maryland, fifteen years the General Grand Recording Officer of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and of the General Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, and three years General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, he had deserved and reached the highest dignities of Masonry. He was especially endeared to us as having been the presiding officer of the Convention which formed the Grand  of this State."

Bro. Griffith was Past Grand Orator.

Grand Master Wm. Caldwell Belcher and Grand Secretary Alex. G. Abell, re-elected.

WISCONSIN.

Grand Master Alden gives an earnest warning of danger from the reception of applicants for Masonry, "who, if a rigid application were made of the *true Masonic test*, would forever have remained without the pale of our Institution." This danger he thinks the more imminent, from the fact that so many of the brethren are in the army of our country, leaving a heavier pecuniary burden upon those who have deemed it their duty to remain at home, and so increasing the temptation to lighten the load by adding to their numbers. We deem this warning by our M.: W.: brother a word fitly spoken, and hope it may be heeded beyond his jurisdiction. He has no hesitancy in saying that the condition of the Order was never better, attributing very much of its prosperity to the labors of the Grand Lecturer, Bro. Youngs.

Grand Master A. B. Alden, and Grand Secretary W. T. Palmer, re-elected.

MISSOURI.

Another State which has suffered most severely by the bloody struggle now going on, having been the theatre of many battles, and large portions of it alternately in the possession of the two contending parties.

Only seventy-four out of 229  upon the roll were represented.

Grand Master Whitcomb refrains from any expression, either of loyalty or disloyalty, but makes the following allusion :

"I need not trace that history (of our Order)—every Mason knows it; but in it—if we may judge the future by the past—there is much food for reflection.

Commencing as it did in a nation composed of twelve different States, or tribes, which, after a short but unexampled career of prosperity, did—as other nations have done both before and since—‘to forget their God;’ and, to use the words of a prominent statesman, ‘became too proud to pray to the God that made them.’

“The consequence was—as it has always been, probably always will be—that they fell out and fought among themselves, until, weakened by internal strife, another nation led the people captive; and to-day a foreign flag floats over the spot where the first Masons were wont to assemble.

“It is useless now to speculate on the causes of that revolt; suffice it to say, it ruined the country, and it is both a serious and a melancholy thought, that, in this world like causes produce like results.

“With the history of our ancient brethren before us, would it not be well, nay, is it not our duty to throw the broad mantle of Masonic charity over the foibles and errors of our brethren, and so far as in us lies, endeavor to carry out the principles of our great Master, ‘Peace on earth, good will towards men.’”

A number of the [] which had stopped work on account of the troubles in our country, having asked permission to elect officers and resume labor, the G. . M. . granted it in all cases. He says :

“It may be long before all the [] can again be at work, longer still before they can pay all their arrearages to the Grand [], and perhaps *much* longer before they can fraternize as they should do; yet, patience and perseverance will accomplish much, and, in my opinion, it is the best, both for the Fraternity and for the country, to have the [] reinstated as nearly as possible as they were before these troubles; and I would suggest that it might be well to release the pecuniary liabilities of those [] which have suffered the most.”

The dues of some [] were remitted by the Grand [], and in other cases the time of paying them was extended.

The following preamble and resolutions upon Conservatorism were unanimously adopted :

“Whereas, Attempts are being made to foist upon sister Grand [] the institution known as the Conservators’ Association, contrary to, and in violation of the ancient and cardinal principles and regulations of our beloved Order; and whereas, the character of said Association has been fully exposed to this Grand []; therefore, be it

“Resolved, 1. That the Grand [] of Missouri solemnly declare the said association a corrupt organization, treasonable to the Institution of Masonry, and subversive of its sacred interests, honor and perpetuation.

“2. That the Grand [] of Missouri peremptorily interdict and forbid the introduction of the above mentioned work or organization in any Masonic body in this Grand Jurisdiction.

“3. That no Mason, subject or adhering to said Association, or who has ever been subject thereto, shall be allowed to sit in, or visit this Grand [], or any Subordinate [] thereunder, or hold affiliation with, or be recognized by any Mason in this jurisdiction, until he shall have solemnly and in open [], recanted and denounced all such connection with said Association, its teachings, objects, and designs.

“4. That hereafter no Grand Officer of this Grand [], and no officer of any Subordinate [], shall be installed until he shall have made a solemn pledge, in open [], that, on his honor as a Mason, he repudiates and condemns the said Association, and has never had any connection therewith.

“5. That the Grand [] under which Robert Morris, the “Chief Conservator,” holds, or pretends to hold membership, be respectfully and fraternally requested, by this Grand [], to bring him to condign and merited punishment for the high crimes with which he now stands self-convicted; and that all our sister Grand [] be requested to join us in this, our solemn demand, and to co-operate with us in the total suppression of the criminal innovations of said association.

"6. That printed copies of these resolutions, attested by the R. W. Grand Secretary, be forwarded immediately to all our sister Grand [] of the United States, and to the Subordinate [] of this jurisdiction."

Brother O'Sullivan, Grand Secretary, made the report on Foreign Correspondence. We have learned with sorrow—not from his report, by any means—that our esteemed brother has been a great pecuniary sufferer from the war, having lost all the toilsomely gathered means which he had through long years been devoting to a home. Knowing this, our heart burned within us as we read the following touching outburst of feeling, called forth by the perusal of kindly words toward Missouri, by brethren of a neighboring jurisdiction :

"As the traveler, journeying over a sandy desert, faint and weary, descends afar off the palm trees, sure indication of shelter from the noon-day sun, and water to cool his fevered brow, so do we, amid the clash of steel, and the vehement denunciation of angry men, hear the words of peace, of good-will, of kind regards, of sympathy with us in our great trouble ; and they seem to us like an arch of promise, which tells us, in words of burning eloquence, that though war's red lightning may flash athwart the horizon, though the thunders may roll through our verdant prairies and luxuriant valleys, and our fields be bathed in ensanguined blood, yet Masonry, type of peace, and love, and good-will to man, speaking through the mouths of her cherished sons, bids us be of good cheer ; that the mystic chain is still glowing with refulgent brightness ; that the sacred links are as firm and enduring as the eternal hills ; and that every throb of the Masonic heart of Missouri is responded to from Kansas to Maine, and beyond the great mountains, down amid the pleasant places bordering on the Pacific ; and that, although now temporarily separated by cruel war from some of our erring sisters, a time will come, and O God ! may it be shortly, when all will again be united, never, never more to be separated."

Bro. O'Sullivan protests, on behalf of the Grand [] of Missouri, against the action of the Grand [] of the District of Columbia, in "planting" a [] within the Masonic jurisdiction of the Grand [] of Virginia—alluding to the [] at Alexandria. We have quoted at length the reasons given for that step, and can not join in our brother's exceptions.

He also "passes by the rebuke administered to Bro. Pierson, of Minnesota, because of its lack of Masonic charity"—alluding to Bro. Stevens' strictures. We have published those strictures in full, because they refer to our Grand Master, and not because we think them sound or Masonic. Bro. O'Sullivan adds :

"We are, as the brother well observes, living in troublous times, when the hint of an unworthy man may cause much persecution to an innocent one. We read that in the days of the Reign of Terror in France, some of the purest and noblest of its citizens were brought to the scaffold by the accusations of some of the vilest of men. While such a state of things does not exist among us at this time, there is enough evil in the hearts of men to seize upon a hasty expression, idly spoken, or a doubt expressed, and use them as a pretext for inflicting much injury upon honest, true-hearted, loyal men.

"Would it not be more in accordance with the teachings of Freemasonry to abstain from all harsh and unmasonic comment, and prove by our acts, not words, that the teachings of the Order are not entirely forgotten ? Let us labor zealously to encourage and promote peace among our-

selves and among all men; and let us earnestly pray that the day may not be far distant when we will all again be united, never, never more to separate! May God, in His infinite mercy, hasten that day!"

The esteem in which our worthy brother Grand Secretary is held at home, is shadowed forth a little in the following preamble and resolution adopted by the Grand ☐ :

"Whereas, The Grand ☐ of the State of Missouri will constantly cherish, with profound gratitude and admiration, a perfect remembrance of the able, faithful and devoted labors of R. W. Brother A. O'Sullivan, who, as a member of this Grand ☐—its Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer for the past twelve years—has so discharged all his duties, official and personal, as to command universal confidence and respect, as well for his profound learning and abilities as for the stainless purity of his character and conduct in every relation of life; therefore,

"Resolved, That we garner up, as richest treasures, his moral and Masonic teachings, and will transmit them to those who shall succeed us in this hall as heirlooms of instruction and delight; and as a further evidence of our affection, and as a stimulus to posterity to imitate his industry and his virtues, we respectfully and fraternally request his portrait to be suspended in the hall of this Grand ☐, and W. Brother W. H. Stone is hereby appointed to procure and pay for the same out of any money in the hands of the Grand Treasurer."

Grand Master, M. W. J. H. Turner, Grand Secretary, re-elected.

KANSAS.

This State having been a great sufferer from the presence of contending armies, we make the following extract from Grand Master Saqui's address :

"The duty of Masons in the unfortunate struggle which is upon us, is not doubtful. Obedience to the Government is, and ever has been, the duty of Masons; and it should be our pleasure, as it undoubtedly is our interest, to comply with the injunctions of this cardinal principle of our Order.

"A Mason is a peaceful subject of the civil power, and is never to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation; and it is a signal proof of the eternal appositeness of Masonic principles, that, under the stern despotism of Russia, as under our own free institutions, this obedience to civil power is alike obligatory.

"In the State you are to be quiet and peaceful; true to your Government and just to your country. You are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live; and this duty is immutable.

"But while we owe fealty and obedience to the civil government, *our obligations to our Order must not be forgotten.* To 'Render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's,' was Masonic practice before the injunction formed a precept of the inspired volume.

"Happily, the duties which we owe to our Order and those due to our country, can never conflict. Our duty to Masonry is as plain and palpable as our duty to obey and sustain the government of our country; and it is because I fear that, in the excitement of our efforts for the preservation of our blood-bought liberties, we may lose sight of that charitable spirit, which as Free Masons, should ever inspire and guide our conversation and conduct, that I ask, as I now do, your earnest attention to the subject.

"That no merely political conduct can or does affect the standing of a

Mason, or alter our relations of fraternity and brotherhood towards him, no intelligent craftsman will deny.

"Has, then, the uncharitable and malignant inspiration of political antagonism never desecrated the portals of our ? Has it never prompted, in the  or out of the , the conduct of brothers towards each other? Has no trifling difference of political opinion made brothers speak of and act towards each other as Masons ought never to do?"

"The Fraternity in Kansas, numbering as it does, men from every State of our once happy and prosperous Union, in its fraternal embrace, (and who inevitably differ in opinion upon matters of National and State policy,) ought, more than any other Masonic jurisdiction, to cultivate and practice the forbearance and charity which should ever distinguish the conduct of Masons.

"Wherever the baleful shadow of political rancor casts its blighting umbrage upon the altar of Masonry, there the Masonic virtues can not dwell.

"I thus speak my opinions, and what I consider true Masonic principles upon the subject, explicitly, because I fear that the malign influence which I deprecate has already affected the harmony of some  of this jurisdiction; and in other Masonic jurisdictions there are those who occupy an honored place in the Order—those who ought to be beacon lights on the horizon of Masonry—who use their high position to set metes and bounds to, and circumscribe and limit, within narrow political circles the *universal* charity of Masonry.

"In striking contrast with such illiberal doctrine is the noble language of the M. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania, who says, 'In war as in peace, the Masonic duty and the Masonic privilege are alike binding and reciprocal.'

"Those to whom such doctrine is unpalatable, claim that it is sustained by only 'some old musty charges raked up from the cobwebs of antiquity.' So is *Masonry the immutable child of Antiquity*, as beautifully expressed by M. W. Bro. Tucker, of Vermont, as 'An old institution, founded upon old history, old customs, old usages and ancient landmarks, which admit of no change in either a progressive or an unprogressive age.'

"Brothers, can you doubt that when the soothing stream of Time shall have flowed for twenty-five or thirty years over the graves of our present troubles and excitements, the heresies of those who would shape Masonry to suit popular feeling, will be universally condemned?"

The Grand Master reports that in several instances he was requested to grant a dispensation to receive a petition, act upon it, and confer the degrees upon the candidate at one and the same meeting. He invariably refused the applications,—a course greatly to be commended, and worthy of being followed by Grand Masters of much older jurisdictions.

As a matter of Masonic law the Grand Master determined that "the first ballot determines the opinion of the  upon the candidate's general worthiness to be admitted into the Temple of Masonry. The ballots before the F. C. and M. M. degrees, respectively, are upon *proficiency*, and that proficiency is best demonstrated by an examination before the .

 It strikes your Committee that a ballot upon the mere question of proficiency is a cumbrous way of doing things. The Master of the  should be capable of deciding that matter.

The Grand Master also made the following decision:

"A second ballot can be ordered only on the same evening when the first ballot was taken, and even then all who were present at the first ballot must be present at the second ballot."

The Grand ☐ approved this decision with the exception that "must" was changed to "should,"—an alteration that strikes us as the opposite of an amendment.

Grand Master Jacob Saqui, and Grand Secretary E. T. Carr, were re-elected.

IOWA.

Grand Master Thomas H. Benton, being absent in the army "at the head of a noble regiment," the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. E. A. Guilbert, presided. He announces the past year to have been one of General Masonic prosperity, and has "reason to believe that more work has been done in the ☐ of this jurisdiction than ever before in the same length of time." He has "followed the example of his chief" in granting "quite a large number of special dispensations to sundry ☐ to initiate, pass and raise candidates out of time," &c. The applicants were "soldiers in the army of the Union, who were either at home on a furlough or were under marching orders." He acknowledges he did "not like this wholesale way," and we only wish his dislike had been stronger than the unfortunate precedent which ruled him.

Bro. E. A. Guilbert elected Grand Master. Grand Secretary T. S. Parvin re-elected.

OHIO.

Grand Master Rex says :

"During the past year we have been blessed abundantly. Our beloved Order has prospered greatly. * * * I would that it were in my power to congratulate you on the happiness and prosperity of our beloved country; but this pleasure is denied me. Desolating, relentless civil war still exists in a large portion of this once happy and favored land. The blood of many of our best and bravest citizens crimson the battle-fields of the Republic, shed in defence of the best government ever vouchsafed to man, for the maintenance of its Constitution and the enforcement of the laws made under it."

A report relative to the duties of Masons "in these times of civil strife and rebellion," and one relative to the death of prominent brothers in the army, were adopted and ordered to be printed in the newspapers of the city. From the former we make the following extract :

"Your Committee would heartily re-affirm the resolution adopted by this Grand body at its last annual communication :

"That in this present unnatural contest, the institution of Free Masonry has no attribute that can take sides with rebellion ;"

"For in all her constitutions, laws and edicts, she has ever inculcated true allegiance and fidelity to civil government, and totally discountenanced 'conspiracies and rebellion.'"

"But while Masons, as individuals, are justified in shedding blood if need be, in support of their legitimate government, the 'Ancient Institution' will never array herself in the habiliments of war."

"It is her province to wield the trowel as the truncheon of peace, and with it she will spread upon the disrupted arch of our National Union 'the cement of brotherly love and friendship,' so that, peradventure, in the words of our gifted brother Vaux, of Pennsylvania, 'if all bonds should be broken—allies rent asunder; if discord, dissension, and disruption shall mark the decline and fall of the most wise and wonderful of the governments of mankind—let the Masonic temple in all states, kingdoms, lands, peoples or confederacies, be the common refuge of an indestructible Masonic confraternity.'"

The following decisions upon questions of Masonic law were reported and adopted:

"1. The Grand Master has decided that a ☐ may grant leave to a member to withdraw his membership, without granting a dimit.

"Your Committee are of opinion that membership once commenced, cannot terminate except by death, dimission, expulsion or suspension. There is no such thing as leave to withdraw distinct from regular dimission.

"2. The Grand Master decides that after a dimit has been voted, and before the certificate of dimission is issued, the ☐ has control of the certificate or dimit, and have a right to withhold it.

"Your Committee are of the opinion—

"1. That the vote of the ☐ dimit, though no certificate of such vote be issued.

"2. A dimit having been voted, neither the Master or Secretary can refuse to deliver the brother a certificate of the same, if he requests it, unless charges be preferred against him."

Grand Master George Rex, and Grand Secretary John D. Caldwell, were re-elected.

OREGON.

Grand Master Bayley says:

"In the course of the year, I have granted dispensations to several ☐ to confer degrees upon candidates without their waiting the time required by the by-laws; but I find that most of those desiring the degrees in this way are either those that have been initiated a long time and not feeling interest enough in Masonry to go any further, neglecting to learn the work, they come forward and desire a dispensation, to save time and trouble; and another class are those who have lived within the jurisdiction of a ☐ for a long time, and cared nothing about Masonry until they are either going to the mines or some other place, and thinking that they may be benefited by being a Mason, come forward and ask to be admitted forthwith, with no other feeling but that of self-interest; and upon due consideration, I think it a bad practice to grant dispensations of this kind, and would not do it again."

Well said and well concluded.

The Grand ☐ adopted the following resolution by a unanimous vote:

"Resolved, That one thousand dollars from the funds of the Grand ☐ be appropriated for the relief of sick and wounded Masons in the Army, to be expended under the direction of the U. S. Sanitary Commission."

Bro. Wm. Fowler elected Grand Master. Grand Secretary Wm. S. Caldwell, re-elected.

MICHIGAN.

Grand Master Darrow devotes most of his Address—quite lengthy—to a eulogy upon and defence of the lectures taught by Bro. Robert Morris. We make the following extract:

"In regard to the authenticity of the lectures taught by Bro. Morris, we have the evidence of one whose image is enshrined in many hearts, and is now, alas, all that is left us of that venerable form. I allude to the late Hon. Phillip C. Tucker, P. G. M. of the Grand [] of Vermont. He says: 'The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Minnesota appears to have some doubts as to these lectures, and suggests a broken link in the chain of their descent from Gleason through Fowle and Barney to Willson.' I think that supposed breakage is wholly imaginary.

"Bro. Gleason was appointed Grand Lecturer of Massachusetts in 1805, and no other Grand Lecturer was appointed by that Grand [] until 1842. During all this time, Bro. Fowle was a member, sometimes a subordinate officer, and occasionally Master of St. Andrews' [], of Boston, one of the oldest and best informed [] in the world. For most of this time, also, Bro. Gleason was at home in Massachusetts, and holding his office of Grand Lecturer for his State. Is it not a very violent presumption to assume that he did not know what lectures, and what kind of work were taught in one of the strongest [] of Boston?

"I knew Bro. Henry Fowle from my boyhood. My father was one of his intimate friends, and they were members and officers of the same Chapter. Bro. Fowle was a man of far more mind and attainments than are usually found among men in his sphere of life. His was not a mind to forget anything, and he was entirely too tenacious a Mason to make changes without authority. But setting all inferences from such consideration aside, I remark for Bro. Pierson's especial satisfaction, that I was present at St. Andrew's [] in 1823 or 1824, and saw the work done, Bro. Fowle taking part in it that evening as a subordinate officer, and that the work was identically that which has been practiced in this jurisdiction from 1818 to this day, as exemplified in the lectures communicated to Willson by Barney. I add, also, that I was subjected, upon another occasion, to a thorough examination, in an ante-room of the same Masonic Hall, upon a visit to St. Andrew's Chapter by a strong examining committee, which, finding that I answered readily, ran through the lectures entire, from Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch, and that the whole of them were identical with those in use in the [] and Chapters of Vermont. There can be no doubt, then, that the lectures communicated by Fowle to Barney were the genuine lectures taught by Webb and Gleason, the same which Gleason received from Webb in 1801 or 1802, the same which he taught as Grand Lecturer of Massachusetts from 1805, the same which I found among the Boston Masons in 1823 or 1824, and the very same which are taught there now.

"Was there any opportunity for them to have been falsified in their transmission from Barney to Willson? Barney received them in 1817, and made private notes of them; in October of that year he submitted them to the Grand [] of Vermont, and got its permission to teach them in this jurisdiction; he was well known here, was a man of integrity, and had every motive of interest and honor to preserve them in their purity. In 1818, and before he had gone from this State to teach elsewhere at all, he imparted them to Bro. Willson, having his original notes before him, and aiding that brother in making a correct copy of them; and when they came into use practically, they were found to exactly agree with those used in the jurisdiction from which Bro. Barney received them. There seems no room for error or mistake here. The link in the chain of transmission is not broken at all."

Bro. Morris being present was invited to exemplify the "Webb-Preston" work, "which he did by reciting the lectures in the several Degrees, by sections, alternately with W. S. Blanchard, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, who recited the lectures adopted by this Grand [], January 9, 1845, being the work approved and recommended by the National Convention of Grand [], held in the city of Baltimore, in the month of May, A. L. 5843."

The only action taken upon the whole matter by the Grand □, was the passage of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That all □ within this jurisdiction are enjoined and prohibited from encouraging, promoting, or permitting the delivery or teaching any Masonic lectures or work which have not been sanctioned and authorized by this Grand □; and all brothers within this jurisdiction are prohibited from delivering or teaching such lectures to □ in this State, unless hereafter authorized so to do by this Grand □."

Bro. J. Eastman Johnson was elected Grand Master. Grand Secretary James Fenton, re-elected.

LOUISIANA.

We have before us the Proceedings of this Grand □ at the Annual Communication held in January last. Only sixteen □ were represented. Fourteen is a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business, but not for an election. Grand Master Fellows, who by his noble Masonic conduct has endeared himself to Masons everywhere, says he has no direct communication with the □ out of New Orleans; that "the □ in the city have done very little work, many of them have hardly met for several months, and their treasures have been in most instances depleted by the numerous calls for the relief of the families of their members;" and that in December preceding, "having an opportunity, and fearing the impossibility of having a full quorum present at this Communication," he addressed a circular to the brethren throughout the State, the behests of which he again enjoins. He says:

"My duties in some respects have been light indeed, yet I have had my full share in advice to many of our brethren in trouble, and which I have cheerfully given. I have advised all to be circumspect, prudent, discreet, and to be ever ready to the full extent of their power to carry out in unsullied purity the holy tenets of our beloved Order."

From the circular referred to we make the following extract:

"Brethren, it is our bounden duty, now more than ever before, to use our utmost endeavors to preserve our beloved Institution, each one in his sphere. Let us with a purity of heart put forth every effort, in this its hour of danger and peril, to preserve it intact and uncontaminated. On its purity its future usefulness depends. We know that its influence has been felt for good during the past year throughout the whole land, and that it will be still more effectual for good is as certain as that you and I do our duty by the Order and inculcate its beautiful and divine lessons of morality and wisdom. It has curbed ambition, depressed envy, moderated anger, and encouraged good dispositions. It has found occasion to put in practice *out* of the □, those duties which have been taught in it, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, the tenets of our profession; and has, so far as its members have been equal to the occasion, convinced the world of the goodness of the Institution—that its members are those to whom its burdened heart may pour out its sorrows, to whom distress may prefer its suit; whose hands are guided by justice and whose hearts are expanded by benevolence. Charity has been exercised, Hope cherished, and we have walked in Faith. The innocent, the distressed and the helpless have been succored, defended and protected, and virtue has been enforced, inculcated, and practiced.

"It is the certainty, that by maintaining our Order in its purity, all we profess for it enures to the benefit of mankind. Let us, then, in view of the great interests at stake, use every effort to preserve our organization unimpaired, waiting in patience and in hope for the good time coming, when we can again be represented in Grand □, or at least meet above—where we shall see as we are seen, and be known as we are known—satisfied that we have faithfully performed the obligations solemnly assumed by us."

The following extract is from the report of Louisiana Relief □, No. 1.

"The return of another Annual Communication calls upon Louisiana Relief □ No. 1, to submit the following report of its "work" for the past year.

"We have again to acknowledge with gratitude the loving-kindness of our Supreme Grand Master in preserving the health of our city during the past year. The trying circumstances under which we were placed, together with the large influx of unacclimated strangers, would have placed the □ in a very peculiar situation had an epidemic occurred, and we cannot be too grateful to Divine Providence which kept far from our city the devouring pestilence.

"The rule adopted at the commencement of hostilities 'to grant no assistance to able bodied men, who had no families depending upon them, but to reserve our charities for the widow and orphan,' has been strictly carried out.

"It is with regret that we perceive the editor of a northern magazine, published ostensibly as a "Masonic" work, in reviewing the Proceedings of the Grand □ for 1862, apply the following remarks to our report of last year:

"We wish we could say as much of the report of the Relief □ given a few pages further on. Besides the bad taste and temper in which it is written, it reveals the discreditable fact that relief was refused poor brethren, who were desirous to return home to the north, on the breaking out of the rebellion, in order that, being unable to get away, they might be driven by their destitute condition to enlist in the rebel army. Such a spirit is fiendish—not Masonic."

"This is a gross misrepresentation; no brother hailing from a northern jurisdiction, desiring to return home, was ever refused assistance by the Relief □, and we defy any one not blinded by prejudice to place such an interpretation on the language of our report. To show still more the unfairness of the criticism, the editor does not give a single extract from the report which he so severely censures. It looks as if he was afraid to show our language to his readers, and we are not surprised at it when we see so many pages of his magazine devoted to the propagation of sectional politics. But the Relief □ will outlive the narrow, bigoted views of such a writer, although we cannot but feel sorry that a magazine which claimed for itself the proud title of the 'Freemason's Monthly,' should have so far forgotten its true mission. 'How are the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ascalon!'

"Although the resources of the Relief □ have been much circumscribed during the past year, it is gratifying to state that many worthy cases have been relieved, and in no instance has an applicant been refused assistance who had a claim upon our charity."

Grand Master, J. Q. A. Fellows; Grand Secretary, Samuel M. Todd.

The imperfectness of your Committee's report shows for itself. It has been prepared under many disadvantages, a single paragraph sometimes occupying here and there a moment of three or four different days. In all the proceedings before us, two subjects have been prominent—the condition of our country as bearing upon Masonic duty, and the Conservators' Association instituted by Bro.

Morris. Copious extracts have been made upon these two subjects, both for present information as to the temper of the Craftsmen in the hour of conflict, and for future reference, guidance and warning. Of Bro. Morris' scheme, we have had occasion to speak in noticing the District of Columbia.

The other subject mentioned is fraught with delicate points. We can hardly feel more sorrow that the Grand ☐ of Virginia should have been so ruled by the "madness of the hour" as to attempt the ostracism of Masons who are faithful to our Union, than that Masons in the loyal States should have indulged in the passionate and uncalled for invectives which appear in some—a very few—of the proceedings. Our impressions may need correcting, but we cannot help the feeling that the long article of Bro. Stevens, which is given entire, is something else than an attempt to vindicate the Order. His views, if carried out fully, would make partizanship a Masonic test in time. There is, to our mind, a vast difference between carrying the spirit of Masonry into all we do—politically or socially—and carrying politics or any other "science" into Masonry.

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. W. PRESCOTT,
Committee.

